

# KENTUCKY'S LEAST WANTED PLANTS

*Promoting alternatives to invasive landscape plants*

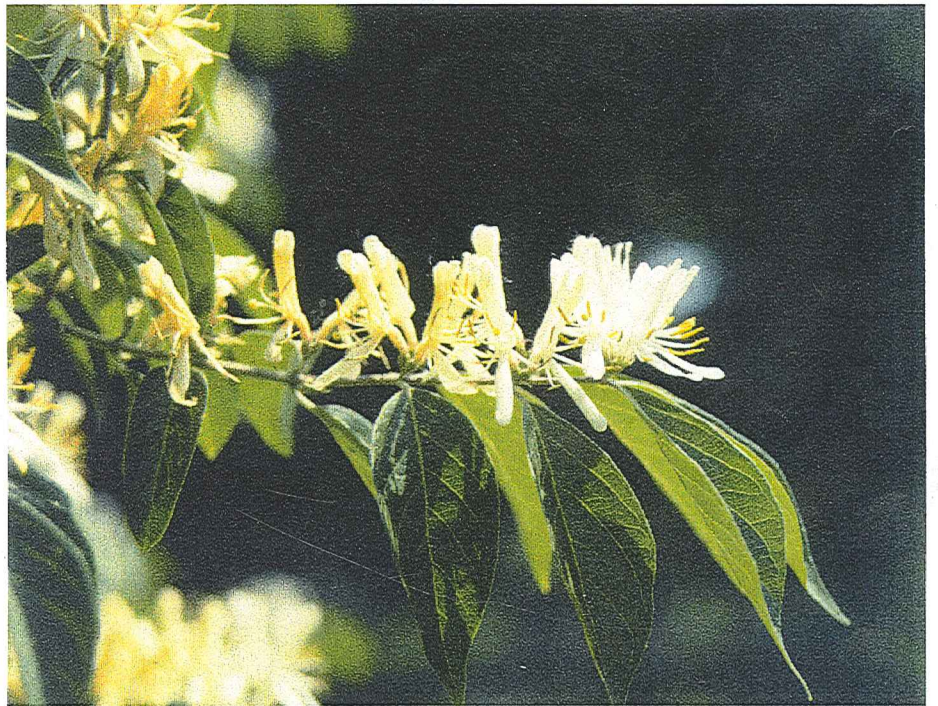
To heighten awareness of invasive plants that threaten Kentucky's native biodiversity, a **Least Wanted** plant will be featured in the Spring of each year with suggested alternatives.

## GARDENERS BEWARE!

### The Shrub Honeysuckles:

*Lonicera tatarica*  
*L. morrowii*  
*L. maackii*

Profuse, fragrant flowers, colorful fruit and rugged adaptability to difficult growing situations make these shrub Honeysuckles attractive landscape plants. Unfortunately, their broad habitat tolerance, rapid growth, and seed dispersal by birds have resulted in rapid spread of the species into Kentucky's natural landscapes. Once established, the Honeysuckles form dense groves and crowd out less vigorous native species. In short, these species have developed into a *serious* situation in Kentucky and the surrounding region.



## TRY THESE!

### Winterberry Holly:

*Ilex verticillata*

*I. verticillata* is a multistemmed deciduous shrub known for its exceptionally showy bright red fruit in fall and winter. Native through the entire eastern coast of North America and sporadically through the midwest, this 5' to 10' tall shrub is an excellent choice for full sun in both low/wet and upland soils. There are many cultivars available including compact growers, orange and yellow-fruited forms. Plant both male and female forms for best fruit production on the females. Robins, Cedar Waxwings and Grosbeaks will sometimes eat the fruit during late winter.



### Spicebush:

*Lindera benzoin*

Spicebush is a Kentucky native shrub known for delicate yellow-green flowers in early spring as well as bright showy red fruit in autumn. It performs admirably in sunny and partial shade situations in moist rich soils. Although the flowers are not fragrant, the leaves, twigs and fruit give off a spicy aroma when crushed. While many species of birds eat the fruit, the plant does not propagate aggressively into natural areas.



Bernheim Arboretum  
and Research Forest

### American Cranberrybush Viburnum:

*Viburnum trilobum*

*V. trilobum* forms a large (10'x10') multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with wide cultural adaptability. It provides delicate white flowers in mid-spring, bright green summer foliage and brilliant red fruit in fall and early winter. The species is native in the northern and northeastern states as well as central and eastern Canada. The plant is easily propagated and is dependable in the landscape. There are several cultivars available including dwarf forms. Few animals bother eating the fruit but they can be used to make excellent jelly.



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