



# Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) Control Herbicide Options

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## BRIEF

Japanese honeysuckle, (*Lonicera japonica*), is a non-native invasive plant that frequently occupies our southeastern United States forests and can be a competitor in some pine stands. It is native to eastern Asia including Korea, Japan and China. This plant is the most commonly occurring invasive plant in the Southeast (Miller and Chambliss 2008). It is a semi-evergreen to evergreen woody vine that can climb to 30+ feet in trees but more commonly is found growing in bunches (8-50+ feet radius) (Photo 1). Vines can reach 80-120 feet long. It has opposite, simple oval to oblong leaves 1-3 inches long and 3/4-1 1/4 inches wide. Leaves may or may not have lobes. The flowers are white fading to yellow (Photo 2) with a sweet scent. The fruit is a black circular berry 1/8-1/4 inches diameter (Photo 3) containing a few seeds. Birds eat the fruit and disperse the seeds.

## HERBICIDES THAT CONTROL JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE WITH STAND AND PINE SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS

There are other name brand and generic herbicides with the same active ingredient for many of the forest herbicides listed below that can be substituted for the products in this paper. The rate per acre or percent solution may change though due to different amounts of active ingredient.

### *I. Pre-plant to Establish Loblolly or Slash Pine*

Add one of the following to the summer (June – August) site prep tank mix.

**Escort® XP** (Bayer; 60% metsulfuron methyl)

- Apply 1 - 2 oz Escort XP product per acre
- Pre to early post emergence

**Accord® XRT II** (Corteva Agriscience; 50.2% glyphosate)

- 3-4 qts/ac (methylated seed oil; MSO or crop oil @ 1-2% v/v can be added to improve control in some cases)

**Forestry Garlon® XRT** (Corteva Agriscience; 8.9% triclopyr)

- Apply at 1-2 qts/ac (methylated seed oil; MSO or crop oil @ 1-2% v/v can be added to improve control in some cases)
- DO NOT use with nearby sensitive crops or trees when temperature is greater than 86 degrees F.

No mature hardwood border trees restrictions with Accord XRT II as long as one does NOT get product on hardwood leaves. If Imazapyr (Chopper or Arsenal or a generic equal) is used with these products, stay 1 to 2 tree heights away from mature hardwoods on site borders. Use Accord only adjacent to the hardwood trees.

### ***II. Pre-plant to establish longleaf pine***

Add one of the following to the summer (June–August) site prep tank

**Accord® XRT II** (Corteva Agriscience 50.2% glyphosate)

- 5 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO or crop oil

**Forestry Garlon® XRT** (Corteva Agriscience; 89.3% triclopyr)

- Apply at 1-2 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil. Do not use with nearby sensitive crops or trees when temperature is greater than 86 degrees F.

### ***III. Post-plant over the top in loblolly and slash pine stands***

**Escort® XP** (Bayer; 60% metsulfuron methyl)

- Apply 1-2 oz Escort XP product per acre as a broadcast application during a Japanese honeysuckle active growth period
- Primarily foliar active with soil activity
- Apply June–August

### ***IV. Post-plant DIRECT spray in loblolly, Longleaf, and slash pine stands***

**Accord® XRT II** (Corteva Agriscience 50.2% glyphosate)

- A foliar active only herbicide
- 1% solution in water
- Apply to Japanese honeysuckle foliage during an active growth phase as a DIRECT spray
- Do NOT apply on planted pines or any other desired vegetation
- June–August application

**Forestry Garlon® XRT** (DOW AgroSciences 83.9% triclopyr)

- A foliar active only herbicide (Garlon 3A and 4 Ultra can be used as well)
- Apply at 2–3% (Forestry Garlon XRT) or at 3–5% (Garlon 4 Ultra or Garlon 3A) in water + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil
- Apply to Japanese honeysuckle foliage during an active growth phase as a DIRECT spray
- Do NOT apply on planted pines or any other desired vegetation
- June–August application (when temperature is less than 87 degrees F when using Forestry Garlon® XRT or Garlon 4 Ultra). Use Garlon® 3A or Accord XRT II when temperature is greater than 86 degrees F.

**Follow label directions and wear all personal protective equipment as required by the label when applying herbicides.**



**Photo 1:** *Japanese honeysuckle can form large clusters or clumps that smother native vegetation if allowed to spread.*





**Photos 2 and 3:** *The photo on the left is Japanese honeysuckle in the flowering stage. Note the new green growth. This is a good time to apply most herbicides to control Japanese honeysuckle; in the active growth phase. The photo on the right is the Japanese honeysuckle fruit; a small berry with few seeds.*

## CITATIONS

Miller, J.H., and Chambliss, E.B. 2008. Estimates of acres covered by nonnative invasive plants in southern forests. USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Auburn, AL. 1 p. Available online at: <https://www.invasive.org/fiamaps/summary.pdf>. Last accessed October 16

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