**Lonicera maackii** (F.J. Ruprecht) C.J. Maximowicz

(Caprifolium maackii, Xylosteon maackii)

- *Lonicera maackii* is also known as Bush Honeysuckle; Amur Honeysuckle, which is a native of temperate Asia, forms a large deciduous irregular twiggy mound 12’ to 15’ tall with a similar or greater spread; growth rates can be rapid and plants can crowd out native vegetation; this is facilitated by the ability of Amur Honeysuckle to tolerate heavy shade until released; the gray pubescent buds of *L. maackii* can be distinguished from those of *L. tatarica* which are flattened and glabrous; the bluish green to medium green leaves of *L. maackii* are longer, 2” to 3” long, have mostly broadly cuneate to occasionally rounded bases, and acute to long acuminate tips while the medium to dark green leaves of *L. tatarica* are on average shorter, 1½” to 2½” long, with rounded to slightly cordate bases, and acute to short acuminate tips; new twigs have a whitish pubescence and may be flushed purple-red, later maturing to a gray-brown; excavated brown pith is present between the solid nodes; fall colors vary from almost nonexistent to a poor yellow; the tan-brown to gray-brown bark of old trunks develops vertical thin exfoliations.

- A profusion of ¾” to 1” long white flowers are borne in spring, fading to a creamy yellow as they mature; flowers are generally reminiscent of those of *L. japonica*, flowers are produced in spring, occurring during or shortly after the foliage emerges; the flowers are followed by shiny, bright red, ¼” to ½” diameter berries, produced mostly in one to two pairs per node, which hold into late winter if not eaten by birds or other wildlife.

- Once a commonly planted shrub for border or background use owing to its ability to respond favorably to shearing, spring flowers and fall / winter fruiting, but with the advent of its extensive escape from cultivation and recognition as a serious weed Amur Honeysuckle has fallen out of mainstream use and should be avoided; *Lonicera maackii* will grow in a wide range of soils and light exposures in USDA hardness zones 3 to 8, but it is less vigorous in warmer portions of the country; it is encountered as a planted shrub or escaped understory weed in the northern portions of our region; the specific epithet dubiously honors the 19th Century Russian naturalist Richard Maack.

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