**Lonicera tatarica** L.  
(Tatarian Honeysuckle, Caprifolium tataricum, Chamaecerasus tatarica, Lonicera micrantha, Lonicera morrowii, Xylosteon tataricum)

- *Lonicera tatarica* is also known as Bush Honeysuckle or Tartarian Honeysuckle; this medium to large, deciduous, twiggy, mounded, multistem shrub can reach 10’ to 12’ tall with a similar spread; dwarf and semi-dwarf forms as short as 3’ tall are sometimes sold; the flattened glabrous buds of *L. tatarica* help distinguish it from *L. maackii* which has more divergent, gray pubescent buds; 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 acuminate tips while 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 long acuminate tips; the tan to grey brown mature bark exfoliates in long strips.

- A profusion of ¾” to 1” long white, pink, or nearly red, flowers are produced in spring, occurring during or shortly after the foliage emerges; flowers are followed by round, bright red or sometimes yellow or orange, berries which can hold into winter; fruit have a sort of translucent appearance, especially on the lighter colored berries; these are eaten by birds and other wildlife and widely spread.

- Although *L. tatarica* is native to Eastern Europe and Northern Asia, it has naturalized extensively in temperate regions worldwide, especially in North America; Tartarian Honeysuckle along with Amur Honeysuckle are major invasive weed problems from the Northcentral USA to the Northeastern USA and upper portions of the Southern USA; plants are found in USDA hardness zones 3 to 8, but are less vigorous and hence less invasive in warm temperate regions, suffering in USDA hardness zones 8b and warmer; the Russian honeysuckle aphid (*Hyadaphis tataricae*) has become a debilitating pest on this species; the specific epithet means from Tatary, a name for Central Asia from the Middle Ages.

Copyright 2017 by Michael A. Arnold with all rights reserved; intended for future inclusion in *Landscape Plants For Texas And Environs, Fourth Edition.*