

# Japanese Honeysuckle

Series: Environmental Weed Factsheet  
Ranked 7 — Worst weed in Yarra Ranges



**Common Name:** Japanese Honeysuckle

**Botanical Name:** *Lonicera japonica*

**Origin:** Native to East Asia

**Size:** 10m H, spreading widely

**Flowers:** September—February

**Fruit:** November—March

**Best removal time:** August–January

## How to dispose of weeds:

### Recovery & Transfer centres:

- Healesville
- Wesburn
- Coldstream
- Lysterfield

*Note: For a free tip voucher to dispose weeds, contact the Environment Dept. on 1300 368 333. Limited availability.*

OR

### Fortnightly Garden Organics Bin

**Service.** *Note: This service is only available to properties within eligible service areas. For more information, contact the Waste Management services on 1300 368 333.*

OR

### Bundled green waste service.

*Note: Check your Residential Recycling & Waste guide for details of the next service in your area.*

## What it does...

This creeper is highly invasive and aggressive. It suckers and can form large mats on the ground and large masses in the canopy of trees. It smothers trees and shrubs and can restrict sap flow in the soft barked plants it grows around. It can also cause premature deterioration of fences and buildings.

## What it looks like...

Stems tend to be purplish and hairy when young, becoming woody with flaky bark on mature stems. Leaves are bright green and hairless except for hugging hairs along veins and margins. The white/cream coloured flowers are in pairs near the branch tips. Flowers have a strong, sweet scent. The fruit is a shiny black berry. Leaves and berries are toxic.

## How it spreads...

This plant can spread from:

- Seed, however it tends to spread more through branches taking root when contacting the ground.
- dumped garden waste and contaminated soil, contributing to its distribution.
- It is widely available at markets, fetes and nurseries. Buyer beware!

## How to remove it...



**HAND:** Hand removal is the best option as this method reduces site disturbance and allows more specific selection of species as opposed to spraying. Ensure that as much of the root system is removed to reduce the amount of regrowth.



**CUT & PAINT:** Cut the vines off at ground level and again about a metre high. Immediately paint both ends of the stem with an undiluted glyphosate-based product. This is useful for larger plants which cannot be easily hand pulled.

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## Indigenous alternatives to plant...

Many climber alternatives exist that are indigenous to the Yarra Ranges region and would make great substitutes for the Japanese Honeysuckle.

Some alternatives include:



Mountain Clematis or *Clematis aristata*



Wonga Vine or *Pandorea pandorana*



Twining Silkpod or *Parsonsia brownii*



Photos: Simone Orscheg; Healesville Sanctuary,  
Marilyn Gray, Owen Gooding, Marty White

## Useful websites

The following is a list of useful information resources:

- For a list of indigenous plant nurseries, see [Indigenous Plant Nurseries list](#).
- For a list of other weeds in Yarra Ranges, see [Environmental Weeds list](#).
- For a list of chemical/herbicide contractors, see [Contractor and supplier list](#).
- For descriptions of the local plants and the weeds of the Shire of Yarra Ranges see [www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/plants](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/plants)



## WARNING IF USING CHEMICALS

If you are weeding, all chemical use must be done as per manufacturers' guidelines. Ensure that you wear protective clothing/eye wear at all times. Take care and protect yourself, your family, pets and the natural environment (waterways, indigenous plants, wildlife) from coming into contact with chemicals.

When purchasing your herbicide always ask for a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). Product suppliers are required to make these sheets available at the point of sale. If a sheet is not available, notify the product manufacturer and the state authority. For further information go to [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au) or call the Poisons Information Service on 13 11 26.

For information on State-listed noxious weeds contact the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) on 136 186. Remember, as a landowner you are required by State law to control and remove noxious weeds on your land.

Produced by the Environment Department of Yarra Ranges Council.  
Working with communities to wipe out weeds for a better future.

