Japanese Honeysuckle
(*Lonicera japonica*)

Background:

First introduced in 1806 as an ornamental ground cover, Japanese honeysuckle escaped cultivation in the 1900s. It is an aggressive, invasive vine readily colonizing new habitats. It prefers sunny habitats but can tolerate some shading.

Japanese Honeysuckle before treatment

Impact on Native Habitat:

The prolific growth of Japanese honeysuckle covers and shades out existing native ground cover vegetation, as well as shrubs and trees. It can significantly alter or destroy the natural communities it invades including prairies, glades, savannas, woodlands, floodplains, and upland forests.

Identification

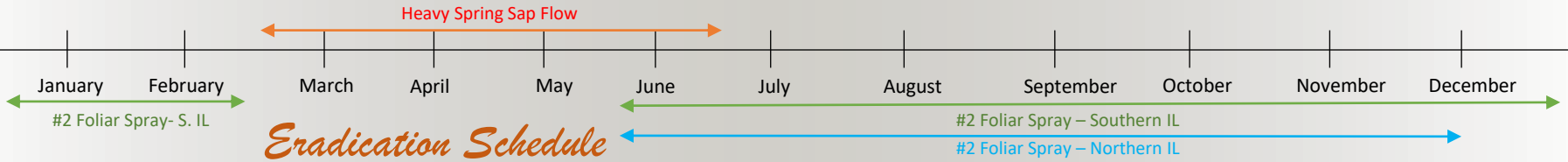
Stems: Semi-evergreen vine sprawling along ground or climbing trees and shrubs.

Leaves: Opposite, oval, glossy leaves (sometimes lobed) less than 3 inches in length that remain green into late winter.

Flowers: Large, fragrant, tubular, white flowers, turning yellow with age.

Fruits: Small purplish-black fruits persisting on vine into winter.

Eradication Schedule



How to Kill: Eradication

1. **Hand pulling-** When the plant is small and the soil is moist, hand pulling is an option if the entire plant can be removed, including the roots. This is a very labor intensive method, requiring surveying the same acreage year after year to pull the re-sprouts.

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2. Foliar spray- This involves spraying the leaves with a solution of properly labeled herbicide plus a non-ionic surfactant, which improves the chemicals ability to adhere and absorb into the plant. This method should be used during the active growing season so care should be taken to avoid spraying non-target species.

3. Prescribed Fire- This practice will not eradicate this invasive species but may help to control its growth by top killing individuals and removing leaf litter which will make other eradication methods easier to implement and more effective overall while helping the natural community to recover at the same time.

Japanese Honeysuckle after treatment

State of Illinois
Illinois Department of Natural Resources