

Freedom Honeysuckle



Freedom Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* x 'Freedom')

General Description

A medium-tall, open, irregular deciduous shrub with slender, spreading and arching branches. This cultivar was introduced by the University of Minnesota's Department of Horticultural Science and Landscape Architecture. Resistant to the Russian honeysuckle aphid. Dull-colored foliage.

Leaves and Buds

Bud Arrangement - Opposite.

Bud Color - Gray, pubescent.

Bud Size - Small.

Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, ovate-elliptic.

Leaf Margins - Entire.

Leaf Surface - Pubescent on both surfaces.

Leaf Length - 3/4 to 1¼ inches.

Leaf Width - 1/2 to 1 inch.

Leaf Color - Blue-green, very dull-colored foliage.

Flowers and Fruits

Flower Type - Borne in peduncled pairs from the leaf axils of short lateral branchlets.

Flower Color - White with a tinge of pink.

Fruit Type - Berry.

Fruit Color - Red, 1/4 inch in diameter.

Form

Growth Habit - Loosely open, spreading and arching branches.

Texture - Medium, summer; medium-coarse, winter.

Crown Height - 6 to 9 feet.

Crown Width - 6 to 9 feet.

Bark Color - Grayish-brown.

Root System - Fibrous, spreading.

Environmental Requirements

Soils

Soil Texture - Adapted to a variety of soils.

Soil pH - 5.5 to 8.0.

Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 1K, 3, 4, 4C, 5, 6D, 6G, 8, 9C, 9L.

Cold Hardiness

USDA Zone 4.

Water

Somewhat drought tolerant.

Light

Full sun.

Uses

Conservation/Windbreaks

Medium shrub for farmstead windbreaks.

Wildlife

Berries are eaten by birds. Nesting cover for songbirds.

Agroforestry Products

Medicinal - The fruits of some *Lonicera* species are used as laxatives.

Urban/Recreational

Good for border and screen planting, but lacks ornamental quality.

Cultivated Varieties

Freedom Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* x 'Freedom') - Resistant to Russian aphid.

Related Species

Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)

Blueleaf Honeysuckle (*L. korolkowii*) - Parent of Freedom Honeysuckle.

Tatarian Honeysuckle (*L. tatarica*) - Susceptible to Russian aphids causing severe witches brooming and decline of plants.

Pests

No major pest problems.