Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica) Control Herbicide Options

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Brief

Japanese honeysuckle, (Lonicera japonica), a non-native invasive plant can occupy our SE US forests and can be a competitor in some pine stands. It is native to eastern Asia including Korea, Japan and China. It is a semi-evergreen to evergreen woody vine that can climb to 30+ feet in trees but more commonly is found growing in patches (8-50+ feet radius) reaching heights of 8-10 feet in the SE US (Photo 1). It has opposite, simple oval to oblong leaves 1 - 3 inches long and 3/4 – 1-1/4 inches wide. The flowers are white fading to yellow (Photo 2) with a sweet scent. The fruit is a black circular berry 1/8 - ¼ inches diameter (Photo 3) containing a few seeds. Birds eat the fruit and disperse the seeds.

Herbicides that Control Japanese honeysuckle with Stand and Pine Species Considerations

I. Pre-plant to Establish Loblolly or Slash Pine
Add one of the following to the summer (June – August) site prep tank

ESCORT® XP (Bayer 60% metsulfuron methyl)
♦ Apply 1 - 2 oz Escort XP product per acre
♦ Pre to early post emergence

ACCORD® XRT (DOW AgroSciences 53.6% glyphosate)
♦ 3-4 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO or crop oil

FORESTRY GARLON® XRT (DOW AgroSciences 89.3% triclopyr)
♦ Apply at 1-2 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil

No mature hardwood border trees restrictions with Accord or Garlon as long as one does not get products on hardwood foliage. If Imazapyr (Chopper or Arsenal or a generic equivalent) is used with these products, stay 1 to 2 tree heights away from mature hardwoods on site borders.
II. Pre-plant to Establish Longleaf Pine
Add one of the following to the summer (June – August) site prep tank

**ACCORD® XRT** (DOW AgroSciences 53.6% glyphosate)
♦ 3-4 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO or crop oil

**FORESTRY GARLON® XRT** (DOW AgroSciences 89.3% triclopyr)
♦ Apply at 1-2 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil

No mature hardwood border trees restrictions with Accord or Garlon as long as one does not get products on hardwood foliage. If Imazapyr (Chopper or Arsenal or a generic equal) is used with these products, stay 1 to 2 tree heights away from mature hardwoods on site borders.

III. Post-plant over the top in Loblolly and Slash Pine Stands

**ESCORT® XP®** (Bayer 60% metsulfuron methyl)
♦ Apply 1 - 2 oz Escort XP product per acre as a broadcast application during a Japanese honeysuckle active growth period
♦ Primarily foliar active with soil activity
♦ Apply June - August

IV. Post-plant DIRECT spray in Loblolly, Longleaf, and Slash Pine Stands

**ACCORD® XRT** (DOW AgroSciences 53.6% glyphosate)
♦ A foliar active only herbicide
♦ 3 – 5% solution in water + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil
♦ Apply to Japanese honeysuckle foliage during an active growth phase as a DIRECT spray
♦ Do NOT apply on planted pines or any other desired vegetation
♦ June – August application

**FORESTRY GARLON® XRT** (DOW AgroSciences 89.3% triclopyr)
♦ A foliar active only herbicide (Garlon 3A, 4 and 4Ultra can be used as well)
♦ Apply at 2 – 3% solution in water + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil
♦ Apply to Japanese honeysuckle foliage during an active growth phase as a DIRECT spray
♦ DO NOT apply on planted pines or any other desired vegetation
♦ June – August application (with temperature less than 90 degrees F)
Photo 1. This photo is a cluster or clump of Japanese honeysuckle
Photos 2 and 3. The photo on the left is Japanese honeysuckle in the flowering stage. Note the new green growth. This is a good time to apply most herbicides to control Japanese honeysuckle; in the active growth phase. The photo on the right is the Japanese honeysuckle fruit; a small berry with few seeds.