



Flowering Shrubs: Honeysuckle

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Honeysuckle Attracts Humming Birds and Butterflies

Honeysuckle is a low maintenance plant. It is available in two varieties. A fragrant climbing honeysuckle or a beautiful woody shrub. They yield glorious flowers in colors of yellow, gold, pinks, reds and white. The brighter the color, the less fragrant the flower. They attract humming birds and butterflies.

Varieties to Plant

The climbing honeysuckle is the most popular but Sweetberry Honeysuckle *Lonicera caerulea edulis* grow as a tall shrub.

Preferred Conditions

Both varieties require full sunshine, and the climbing variety can be trained to grow up fences, walls, trellises, or stakes.

Without the sun, Honeysuckle will not flower, and may shed some of their leaves. If planted too close to a wall they may develop Powdery Mildew, due to lack of air circulation. Pruning the plant if too thick might eliminate this problem. Some varieties tolerate partial shade. Plant in well-drained soil with a neutral pH. In acidic soils plants suffer from nutrient deficiency which presents as pale leaves and poor growth.

Care and Pruning

When planting cover the base with a layer of compost, followed by a layer of mulch. The mulch will help retain water. If planting a climbing variety install support structure. After your honeysuckle has flowered prune the plant.

Problems you Might Encounter

Pests are rarely a problem. As honeysuckle grow quickly, any damage is replaced by new growth. Powdery Mildew is a fungal disease caused by lack of air circulation. Cankers, and leaf blight hit plants that don't receive proper growing conditions. Some plants can become leggy if grown in too much shade. If planted in heavy clay soils, can result in root rot that will eventually kill the plant.

Learn more about *Honeysuckle* [here](#)>