

2022 March *Guess that Plant*



Lonicera fragrantissima Lindl. & Paxton
Sweet Breath of Spring, Winter Honeysuckle, or Fragrant Honeysuckle

March's *Guess that Plant* is the non-native bush honeysuckle known as winter or fragrant honeysuckle. This species begins flowering in later winter and is all but through its flowering cycle by early April. The species is native to China, and was established in North America as an ornamental shrub in 1845 (Rehder, 1940). Our *Guess that Plant* is similar to, and hybridizes with *Lonicera standishii*. The two species are superficially distinguished by their leaf shape (oval/ovate v acuminate) and bracts.

Our monthly species is found in the agriculturally disturbed areas within the Piedmont and Highland counties, and the similar habitats on roadside and recovering woodlands in the southern counties of Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem.

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