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*Lonicera caprifolium*

[Synonyms : *Lonicera grata*, *Lonicera pallida*]

**PERFOLIATE HONEYSUCKLE** is a deciduous, twining and climbing shrub. Native to western Asia and central and southern Europe (where it is most common), it has small strongly scented, white or yellowish-white (sometimes purplish) flowers.

It is also known as American woodbine, Dutch honeysuckle, Early cream honeysuckle, Fragrant woodbine, *Gartengeissblatt* (German), *Geissblatt* (German), Goat honeysuckle, Goat-leaf honeysuckle, Goat's leaf, Honeysuckle, Italian honeysuckle, Italian woodbine, *Jelängerjelier* (German), *Kaprifol* (Swedish), *Kaprifolio* (Esperanto), Sweet honeysuckle, Sweet wild honeysuckle, Sweet woodbine, Tops and top-gallants, *Trädgårdskaprifol* (Swedish), *Tuoksuköynnöskuusama* (Finnish), *Wohlriechendes Geissblatt* (German), *Zemolez kozí* (Slovak), and *Zimolez kozí list* (Czech).

The flowers are pollinated by hawkmoths.

Warning – the berries are said to be poisonous. It is believed the plant can cause vomiting. It can cause dermatitis. (Despite this warning it should be noted that no official records of poisoning exist in Britain.)

*Caprifolium* is derived from Latin *capri-* (goat, she-goat) and *-folia* (leaved) components meaning 'goat's leaf' with reference to a conviction that goats liked to eat the leaves of this species (as much as any other in the genus).

Its orange berries used to be fed to chickens.

When the early settlers arrived in North America they introduced this species to that Continent. This honeysuckle was an ingredient in a traditional lotion used for treating sunburn and freckles.

Today the flowers provide a commercial ingredient for the perfumery industry.

Medicinally, although rarely used today perfoliate honeysuckle has been recommended in the past to treat asthma, colds and 'flu'.