

# *Lonicera sempervirens*

## Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle

Tried and True  
Native Plant Selections  
for the Mid-Atlantic

Low maintenance and showy, Trumpet Honeysuckle blooms intermittently until frost with coral flowers and red fruit often present together. A yellow-flowered form, *L. sempervirens* f. *sulphurea*, discovered in 1991 on the grounds of a 17th century Virginia church, was selected and propagated to create a more compact and floriferous cultivar, ‘John Clayton.’ The Virginia Native Plant Society selected Trumpet Honeysuckle as Wildflower of the Year in 2014.



Vine	Spring Vines, Fall Flowers/Fruit, w/ Pollinators**
Height: 8–20 feet (‘John Clayton’ 6–12 feet)	 
Spread: 6–12 feet (‘John Clayton’ 3–5 feet)	
Bloom Color: Coral to red with yellow (‘JC’ yellow)	
Characteristics	
Vigorous, <a href="#">twining</a> , <a href="#">semi-evergreen</a> , <a href="#">perennial</a> vine	
<a href="#">Opposite</a> , obovate, smooth-margined, blue-green leaves, <a href="#">glaucous</a> , especially beneath; <a href="#">petiolate</a> , <a href="#">sessile</a> , or <a href="#">perfoliate</a> depending on stem position	 
Terminal clusters of opposite 3-flowered <a href="#">cymes</a> ; red & yellow trumpet-shaped <a href="#">corolla</a> with <a href="#">exserted stamens/style</a> ; bloom April–June, then off & on til frost	
Globose, green <a href="#">berries</a> mature to red August–March	
Attributes	
Tolerates <a href="#">clay soil</a> and Black Walnut; no serious pests or diseases, although powdery mildew likely if air circulation is poor; <a href="#">deer</a> occasionally browse foliage and stems	
Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, moths, and bees to flowers & birds to berries; <a href="#">larval</a> host to ~31 <a href="#">lepidopterans</a> incl. Hummingbird and Snowberry Clearwing moths	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
<a href="#">Soil Requirements</a> : <a href="#">Loamy</a> , well-drained soil	<a href="#">Akebia quinata</a> - Chocolate Vine <a href="#">Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</a> - Porcelainberry <a href="#">Celastrus orbiculatus</a> - Oriental Bittersweet <a href="#">Clematis terniflora</a> - Sweet Autumn Clematis <a href="#">Euonymus fortunei</a> - Wintercreeper <a href="#">Lonicera japonica</a> - Japanese Honeysuckle <a href="#">Wisteria floribunda &amp; W. sinensis</a> - Asian Wisterias
<a href="#">Light Requirements</a> : Sun, Partial Shade	
<a href="#">Water Requirements</a> : Moist	
Transplants well	
Sunnier the site, more prolific the flowers	
Prune after flowering	<p>*It is <a href="#">native</a> to DC, common in DE, and clustered mainly in MD’s Coastal Plain. It grows mostly in southeast PA but is found elsewhere in the state. In VA, it is frequent in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont and infrequent in the mountains. It is native to NoVA except for Loudoun County.</p> <p>**A ruby-throated hummingbird feeds on species flowers and a bumble bee visits <i>L. sempervirens</i> f. <i>sulphurea</i> ‘John Clayton.’</p>
Use as climber on arbors, fences or as ground cover	
<a href="#">Hardiness</a> : USDA Zones 4a–9b	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills (top left) and Mary Free, private gardens, Arlington, VA and (w/ bee) Glencarlyn Garden