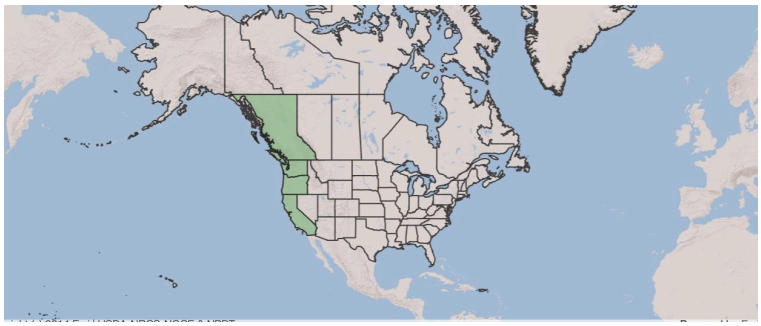
Plant Propagation Protocol for *Lonicera hispidula*

ESRM 412 – Native Plant Production

Spring 2025

North America Distribution



Washington and Oregon Distribution

Source: USDA PLANTS Database

TAXONOMY	
Plant Family	Caprifoliaceae
Scientific Name	*Lonicera hispidula*
Common Name	Pink honeysuckle
Species Scientific Name	*hispidula*
Scientific Name	*Lonicera hispidula* (Lindl.) Douglas ex Torr. & A. Gray[10]
Varieties	*Lonicera hispidula* (Lindl.) Douglas ex Torr. & A. Gray var. *hispidula*[10]

	Lonicera hispidula (Lindl.) Douglas ex Torr. &. Gray var. *vacillans* A. Gray[10]
Sub-species	None officially recognized beyond the varieties listed.
Cultivar	None documented or named in cultivation literature.
Common Synonym(s)	None commonly recognized for this species.
Common Name(s)	Pink honeysuckle, California honeysuckle, hairy honeysuckle[10]
Species Code (as per USDA Plants database)	LOHI2[10]
GENERAL INFORMATION	
Geographical range	Native to western North America, primarily from British Columbia through California, including Oregon and Washington. Distribution is primarily along coastal and mountain ranges[10]. See maps above for distribution in North America and Washington and Oregon.

Ecological distribution	Commonly found in forest understories, thriving in moist, shaded to semi-shaded environments with a moderately open canopy[2][5].
Climate and elevation range	Related species in the *Lonicera* genus have shown adaptability to a range of elevations (600 - 1800 m) and cool temperate climates, suggesting *L. hispidula* may thrive in similar conditions[4][11].
Local habitat and abundance	It is often associated with regenerating forest ecosystems and is known to respond positively to the removal of invasive competitors like *Lonicera maackii*[2].
Plant strategy type / successional stage	Facultative early to mid-successional species; can persist in understory after canopy closure. May function as a stress tolerator or mild competitor depending on site conditions[2][7].
Plant characteristics	A deciduous, perennial woody vine or scrambling shrub that twines through surrounding vegetation or along the ground. It produces pink tubular flowers followed by bright red berries, which are attractive to birds and insects[1]. The species exhibits moderate shade tolerance and can establish in partial sun to full shade, a trait also observed in other native honeysuckle species such as *Lonicera villosa* and *Lonicera caerulea*[2]. Growth habitat is typically low and spreading, but may climb if support is present[3]. Studies on related species indicate the

	phenological stages follow distinct bud and shoot development sequences that can inform nursery timing and cold-hardiness protocols[11].
PROPAGATION DETAILS: FROM SEED	
Ecotype	Seed collected from coastal Oregon, mixed conifer forest margin[1].
Propagation Goal	Plants
Propagation Method	Seed
Product Type	Container (plug)
Stock Type	Standard seedling
Time to Grow	Approximately 6-9 months to outplant readiness[1][6].
Target Specifications	10-15 cm tall with healthy fibrous root system; 6+ true leaves[1].
Propagule Collection Instructions	Collect ripe berries in late summer (August-September). Harvest only fully red fruits[1].
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	Seeds are extracted by maceration and flotation. About 57,000 seeds/lb[10]. Seeds have relatively short viability if not stored properly[6].

Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	Cold-moist stratification at 4 degrees celsius for 90 days to break physiological dormancy[6][8]. Some sources recommend scarification for older seed lots[8].
Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	Use well-drained forest humus mix in standard 2-inch plugs. Medium should retain moisture but not stay saturated[6].
Establishment Phase Details	Sow pretreated seeds 0.5 cm deep. Maintain moisture and moderate temperatures (18-21 degrees celsius). Germination usually occurs in 2-4 weeks[6].
Length of Establishment Phase	3-4 weeks[6].
Active Growth Phase	Gradual increase in light intensity and fertilizer application (half-strength balanced fertilizer every 2 weeks). Maintain spacing and weed control[1].
Length of Active Growth Phase	3-5 months[1][6].
Hardening Phase	Reduce watering frequency. Expose to ambient outdoor conditions with partial shade. No fertilizer during this phase[6].
Length of Hardening Phase	4-6 weeks[6].
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	Plants can be stored in cool shaded holding areas for 1-2 weeks before outplanting. Moist media must be maintained[6].

Length of Storage	1-2 weeks[6].
Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	Plant in early fall or late spring. Success rates of 70-80% observed in restoration settings[2][6]. Establishes best in lightly shaded, moist microsites. Mulching is beneficial for root moisture retention[2].
Other Comments	Propagation details for *Lonicera hispidula* are limited. However, related species such as *L. villosa, L. caerulea,* and *L. maackii* have been studied in propagation and ecological contexts[1][4][7][8]. These congeners exhibit species-specific dormancy requirements[8], seasonal rooting behavior[4], and varied responses to soil fertility and moisture[7]. While findings are taxon-specific, they offer a useful reference point for developing propagation protocols for *L. hispidula* in similar habitats.
PROPAGATION DETAILS: VEGETATIVE	
Ecotype	Experimental ecotypes were not identified for *Lonicera hispidula*, but protocols for *L. villosa* and *L. caerulea* have used softwood cutting collected in Maine and across Eurasian germplasm, respectively[1][8].
Propagation Goal	Plants

Propagation Method	Vegetative
Product Type	Container (plug)
Stock Type	Not explicitly stated; plug-grown stock typical for vegetative Lonicera spp[1][8].
Time to Grow	Rooted cuttings of *L. villosa* were ready for landscape outplanting after approximately one growing season under mist or subirrigation systems[1][8].
Target Specifications	Healthy, rooted cuttings with high root dry weight, volume, and root tip count are the target. Studies suggest cuttings treated with 8000-12000 $mg \cdot L^{-1}$ K-IBA in 100% perlite show optimal rooting success[1][8].
Propagule Collection Instructions	Softwood cuttings should be taken during the growing season. In *L. villosa*, this was performed in early summer; side wounding improved rooting success[2].
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	Cuttings from *L. villosa* demonstrated up to 98% rooting under overhead mist and 85% under subirrigation[2].
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	Treat cuttings with 8000-12000 $mg \cdot L^{-1}$ K-IBA for enhanced adventitious rooting[1][8]. Root formation was significantly affected by substrate composition and hormone concentration[2].

Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	Use a propagation medium of 100% coarse perlite for maximum rooting success in both overhead mist and subirrigation systems[1][8][9].
Establishment Phase Details	Cuttings should be maintained in high humidity environments, ideally mist or subirrigation systems. Root initiation was observed across treatments with high success rates[2].
Length of Establishment Phase	Establishment and rooting occurred over 3-6 weeks for *L. villosa*[2].
Active Growth Phase	Plants transitioned into active growth following rooting, with maintenance in warm, moist conditions under indirect light. Fertility was minimally manipulated in the propagation phase but important post-transplant[3].
Length of Active Growth Phase	Active vegetative growth continued for 8-10 weeks post-rooting under typical nursery practices[1][8].
Hardening Phase	Plants were acclimated outdoors before transplanting; no specific cold conditioning was required for *L. villosa* under temperate climate trials[1].
Length of Hardening Phase	2-4 weeks following root development, as cuttings were gradually transitioned to field conditions[1][8].

Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	Rooted cuttings were transplanted directly after the hardening phase. In landscape trials, all *L. villosa* cuttings survived and grew appreciably over two years[2].
Length of Storage	Not typically stored long-term. Transplanting occurs soon after hardening to maintain viability and prevent desiccation[2].
Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	Rooted cuttings of *L. villosa* performed well in mineral soils low in organic matter with minimal care. They adapted readily to landscapes despite originating from moist, organic-rich environments[2].
Other Comments	This vegetative propagation protocol is based on studies of *Lonicera villosa* and *Lonicera caerulea*, two congeners of *Lonicera hispidula* that inhabit comparable northern and temperate ecosystems[1][2]. Given similar growth forms and ecological strategies, their propagation methods offer a practical foundation for developing species-specific protocols for *L. hispidula*[1][8]. Further trials are recommended to verify rooting hormone concentrations, substrate preference, and outplanting success in coastal Pacific Northwest conditions.
INFORMATION SOURCES	
References	See Below
Other Sources Consulted	See Below

Protocol Author	Nala Tillman
Date Protocol Created or Updated	05/26/25

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