

Honeysuckle

Lonicera periclymenum

Feithleann



Honeysuckle also known as Woodbine is a native, vigorous, deciduous climbing shrub that twines itself over other shrubs and through hedgerows, growing to more than 7m in height.

It is found in woodland, hedgerows or scrubland. The 3-5cm long flowers are tubular, two-lipped and arranged in a whorl on woody stems and are creamy white or yellowish in flower, pink in bud, with an intense fragrance especially at night. Honeysuckle is pollinated by bees by day and at night moths are attracted by the heavenly scent, the Elephant Hawkmoth regularly visits in search of nectar. In autumn the flowers are followed by clusters of scarlet berries which attract birds such as coal tits.

Honeysuckle or woodbine was mentioned by Shakespeare:

“I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,
Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,
With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine”

Long ago it was believed that if honeysuckle grew around the entrance to the home it prevented a witch from entering. In other places it's believed that grown around the doors it will bring good luck. If it grows well in your garden, then you will be protected from evil. In Ireland honeysuckle was believed to have a power against bad spirits, and it was used in a drink to cure the effects of the evil eye. Bringing the flowers into the house will bring money with them.