



Flowers blooming

Visitor Education Center (VEC)

About Us

The Visitor Education Center (VEC) at the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery is the first and only facility of its kind in Mississippi. It is owned and operated by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

In addition to the native habitat area, the VEC features a 10,000 gallon aquarium, interactive exhibits, displays, artifacts, fishing rodeo pond, gift shop and gallery, and the World Record White Crappie. All of these elements serve as entertaining and engaging learning experiences for all visitors.

The VEC promotes the sport of freshwater fishing in Mississippi, and encourages the conservation and stewardship of aquatic resources. The facility offers guided and self-guided tours along with a myriad of programs and workshops for the public.



Honeysuckle blooms and vines

Planting Tips:

This honeysuckle is best planted in the spring from seeds or cuttings. Although able to withstand some drought, the coral honeysuckle prefers moist soil, thus should be watered regularly. These plants must be spaced 3 to 4 feet apart and in full sun to part shade.

Pruning is essential as this vine can be slightly invasive, but pruning should be attempted very little after March when blooming starts.

MISSISSIPPI NATIVE: CORAL HONEYSUCKLE

(Lonicera sempervirens)

**NMFH Visitor
Education Center**

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Blooming

Description/Season:

This native plant is a slender climbing vine. The flowers are a trumpet shape ranging from coral to red on the outside and yellow on the inside with 2 or more flowers clustered together. This vine also displays berries that are red to black in color. The color of the bark is orange/brown, which has a papery texture. The paired leaves are deep green, glossy, rounded, and smooth.

This perennial blooms March – June.

Size:

This plant can reach lengths of 15 to 20 feet. Flowers reach lengths of 2 inches. The fruit, on average, is $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch long.

Other Names:

*Trumpet Honeysuckle, and
Woodbine*

Habitat:

This is a hardy plant living in a variety of soils.



Larger plants have a thicker base.



Vines and leaves

Interesting Facts:

Although the coral honeysuckle is a climbing plant, it is also good for ground cover, growing rapidly. The flowers attract birds (especially hummingbirds), butterflies, and bees. The berries also attract different species of birds, such as cardinals and purple finches.



Information Sources: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, MSU Extension, Clemson.edu, USDA, and VEC Staff. Pictures taken at the VEC (Wiggins, E.J.); property of MDWFP.