Trumpet Honeysuckle ‘John Clayton’  
(Lonicera sempervirens)

6-12’ x 3-5’ compact fast-growing long-lived multi-stemmed twining and twisting vine.  

CT native species, found in woods and thickets.

Clusters of narrow trumpet-shaped mildly fragrant butter-yellow flowers with lemon yellow throats, up to 2” long. Heavy flowering from May to June, and some additional bloom until fall. (Unfortunately, the highly fragrant Asiatic honeysuckle is destructively invasive.)

3” glossy clean oval darkish blue-green paired leaves. Emerge reddish-purple in early spring.

Profuse showy persistent round bright red-orange fruit, September to November.

Papery exfoliating orange-brown bark.

Sun. Will grow in some shade, but flowering will be reduced. Average to moist well-drained soils. Prefers humusy rich soils, but an adaptable plant. Needs a support structure on which to grow, unless it is allowed to grow as a ground cover or over shrubs. After the plant reaches the desired height, the wood becomes thicker every year, with the vine starting to provide its own support. Prune in late winter after extreme cold has passed, or as needed immediately after spring flowering. In exposed locations or colder microclimates, apply a thick mulch around the root zone in winter.

Ideal for ornament or screening, covering arbors, fences, or trellises, where it provides abundant billowing foliage, and flowers towards the top of its structure. Also attractive and useful as a groundcover, slope cover, over old shrubs, or trailing off a retaining wall. Can be leggy near the base, so consider underplanting with low-growing plants.


Usually listed as deer resistant, sometimes deer tolerant.