



**Wineberry**

*Rubus phoenicolasius* Maxim

Rose family (Rosaceae)

**NATIVE RANGE**

Japan, Korea and China

**DESCRIPTION**

Wineberry, or wine raspberry, is a typical species in the genus *Rubus*, which contains blackberry and raspberry. The name *Rubus phoenicolasius* translates as "blackberry with purple hairs." The mature plant has long stems (canes) that are upright and arching and covered with distinctive glandular red hairs and small spines. The hairs give the canes a reddish color when seen from a distance. Under favorable conditions, canes may grow to a length of 9 feet. Leaves consist of three heart-shaped, serrated leaflets with purplish veins and are silvery white tomentose on the underside. Small greenish flowers with white petals and reddish hairs occur in Spring. The very edible raspberry like fruit is bright red and ripens during June and July.



**ECOLOGICAL THREAT**

Wineberry is a vigorous grower and can form dense thickets covering large areas, displacing many native plants in the process. Wineberry poses a threat to the native plants that grow in forest, field, stream and wetland edge habitats, open woods, and savannas and prairies.



**DISTRIBUTION IN THE UNITED STATES**

Wineberry is found from New England and eastern Canada south to North Carolina and west to Michigan and Tennessee. It is considered an invasive plant of natural areas in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

**HABITAT IN THE UNITED STATES**

Like other members of *Rubus*, wineberry prefers moist conditions and adequate sunlight. Many species of birds and mammals use the brambles for nesting and shelter.

**BACKGROUND**

Wineberry was introduced into the United States in 1890 as breeding stock for new *Rubus* cultivars. It is used today by berry breeders to add specific genes to berry varieties or species. Wineberry is an example of one man's flower being another man's weed. Given containment, wineberry has desirable and useful qualities, but due to its invasive nature, it is considered a significant pest of agricultural and natural ecosystems. Wineberry has been used as a virus indicator for raspberry yellow spot and wineberry latent virus and numerous plant viruses have been isolated from it.



**BIOLOGY & SPREAD**

Wineberry reproduces by seeds, and through vegetative means including root buds and the sprouting of new plants from where canes touch the soil. The drupes are sought after and dispersed by various birds and mammals (including humans).

## MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Manual, mechanical and chemical means of control are available. Removal of plants by hand pulling or use of a 4-prong spading fork can be effective especially if the soil is moist and the roots and any cane fragments are removed. Branches with berries should be bagged but the remaining plant material can be left to compost. Do not plant wineberry unless you are prepared to contain it vigilantly to prevent unintentional spread.

**USE PESTICIDES WISELY:** Always read the entire pesticide label carefully, follow all mixing and application instructions and wear all recommended personal protective gear and clothing. Contact your state department of agriculture for any additional pesticide use requirements, restrictions or recommendations.

**NOTICE:** mention of pesticide products on this page does not constitute endorsement of any material.

## CONTACT

For more information on the management of Wineberry, please contact:

- Marc Imlay, ialm at erols.com
- Neal R. Spencer, Entomologist, USDA/ARS, Federal Nutrition Lab. Ithaca, NY, nrs23 at cornell.edu.

## OTHER LINKS

- <http://www.invasive.org/search/action.cfm?q=Rubus%20phoenicolasius>
- <http://www.lib.uconn.edu/webapps/ipane/browsing.cfm?descriptionid=93>

## AUTHOR

Neal R. Spencer, Entomologist, USDA/ARS, Federal Nutrition Lab, Ithaca, NY

## EDITOR

Jil Swearingen, National Park Service, National Capital Region, Washington, DC

## PHOTOGRAPHS

John M. Randall, The Nature Conservancy, Davis, CA

## REFERENCES

Dendrology at Virginia Tech. 2001. Wine raspberry Rosaceae *Rubus phoenicolasius*  
<http://www.fw.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/syllabus/rphoenicolasius.htm>

Padley, Eunice, and Jan Schultz. 1998. Hiawatha National Forest. September, 1998 Listed noxious weeds and invasive non-native plants - Eastern Region, USDA-Forest Service <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/weed/nox-weed.htm>

Randall, John M. & Janet Marinelli Ed. 1996. Invasive Plants: - Weeds of the Global Garden. Brooklyn Botanic Garden 21st-Century Gardening Series. Brooklyn, NY.

Talt, Marge. Clearing Woods - Shrubs Part 4 - Brambles Part 1, by Marge Talt, Gardening in Shade on Suite101.com [http://i5ive.com/article.cfm/shade\\_gardening/57038](http://i5ive.com/article.cfm/shade_gardening/57038).

USDA, ARS, National Genetic Resources Program. Germplasm Resources Information Network - (GRIN). [Online Database] National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland. Available: <http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxon.pl?32416>