

WINEBERRY

(Wine raspberry)

Rubus phoenicolasius

Status in Maine: not yet detected



Description: Perennial, deciduous shrub with arching, thorny, biennial stems (canes), like many brambles. Branches, petioles, and sepals covered with long glandular red hairs. **Leaves:** Alternate, pinnately compound leaves with 3-5 toothed leaflets. Undersides of leaves appear white due to white, woolly hairs. **Flowers/seeds:** Bristly clusters of ¼-½" flowers, each with 5 very small white petals, produce orange to red edible "berries." A hairy, sticky calyx covers and protects the fruit as it matures.

Native range: Eastern Asia and Japan. **How arrived in U.S.:** Introduced by agronomists to improve commercial *Rubus* breeding stock.

Reproduction: By seed and vegetatively. Flowers are hermaphroditic and self-compatible and are not dependent on pollinators for fruit set. Berries are eaten by a variety of animals, including humans. Also spreads vegetatively, by underground rhizomes and rooting cane tips.

Habitat: Prefers open, moist conditions, but invades a variety of habitats including forest gaps, woodlands, floodplains, shrublands, wet meadows, hedgerows, meadows, old fields, upper beach areas, and burn sites.

Similar native species: Two similar sized *Rubus* species in Maine have reddish berries, red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) and flowering raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*). Red raspberry differs in having far fewer prickles/hairs on its stem, typically 5 leaflets, and a more upright habit. Flowering raspberry



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differs in having simple, undivided leaves and large pink flowers. Other similarly sized *Rubus* species produce black berries. The reddish hairy, bristly look of wineberry is distinctive.

Similar non-native species: Japanese strawberry raspberry (*Rubus illecebrosus*), a rare escape, has large (~1") bright red fruits and pinnately compound leaves with 5-7 leaflets, and lacks red bristles/hair.

Control methods: Small plants and seedlings may be pulled up by the roots if soil is moist; larger plants can be cut, but re-sprouting will occur. Persistent cutting or mowing multiple times during the growing season over several years may kill the plant, but diligence is required. Mowing can prevent seedlings from establishing. Herbicides are effective as foliar applications (glyphosate solution) or cut-stump applications (glyphosate or triclopyr solution applied immediately after cutting except in early spring).

