

Wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*)

Identification:

Wineberry, sometimes referred to as Wine Raspberry, is identifiable by its three-leaflet hairy leaves, which are green on the front and distinctly white on the back, and its stem, which is reddish pink and appears very “fuzzy” with small hairs and spines. It grows into an unkempt shrub which forms brambles and intertwines with surrounding brush. The fruits resemble raspberries almost identically. Small white flowers appear in May and June.



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Habitat and Spread:

The berries ripen in late summer and seed dispersal rapidly occurs via animal consumption. Additionally, the tips of the canes can re-root as they bend back into the ground to spread locally. Wineberry tends to populate open or disturbed areas, such as roadsides and former croplands, alongside other invasives that can tolerate poor soil conditions. Thus, it contributes to the formation of a thicket that scarcely allows sunlight to pass through to native species.

Management Techniques:

As in many cases, mechanical removal (hand-pulling) is effective if all parts of the plant are removed. Ideal removals are in winter or early spring before the fruits develop. Since the morphology of Wineberry is so non-uniform, its easiest to cut as low on the canes as possible and treat the stems with herbicide. Returning for follow-up cutting is necessary to successfully remove a swath.

Native Range and Original Introduction:

Rubus phoenicolasius was brought to the United States in the late 1800s to be bred with raspberry for fruit production. It is native to eastern Asia.

J. Käthe, Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP)



A thicket of Wineberry covering the forest floor. (Left) Flowers and fruits forming from pubescent red stems. (Right)



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