

Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania

Wineberry

Rubus phoenicolasius Maxim.



Photo: John Randall, The Nature Conservancy,
www.invasive.org

Background:

Also known as wine raspberry, this shrub from eastern Asia was introduced into the U.S. in 1890 as breeding stock for new raspberry cultivars. It is still used today by berry breeders.

Range:

This shrub is found mostly along the Appalachian ridge from Massachusetts to Tennessee, with scattered patches in New York, the Carolinas and parts of the Midwest.

Description:

This is a multi-stemmed shrub that can grow up to nine feet tall under favorable conditions. The entire plant is covered in tiny, reddish hairs and sharp spines. The compound leaves are made up of three heart-shaped, toothed leaflets. The leaves alternate along the stem and are green on top, white on the underside. White, five-petaled flowers appear in the spring and later give way to red, raspberry-like fruits in June and July.

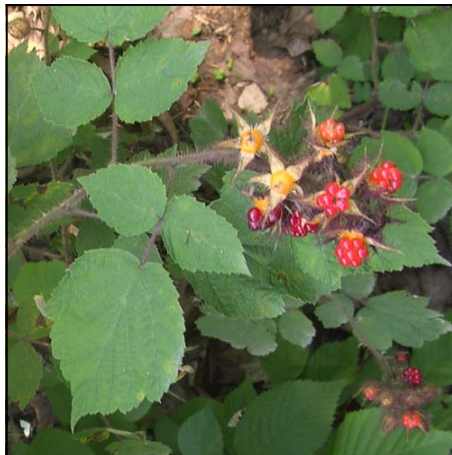


Photo: Tuscarora State Forest

Habitat:

This shrub prefers moist, open areas like fields, roadsides and forest edges.

Biology and Spread:

The berries of this shrub are eaten by a variety of wildlife and humans, thus contributing to its spread. It also reproduces vegetatively through root nodes. New plants can also form as the branches touch the ground and root.

Ecological Threat:

This plant can form extensive, dense thickets that displace native vegetation and restrict light to lower growing vegetation. Wineberry is also host to several viruses that can affect raspberries, like raspberry yellow spot.

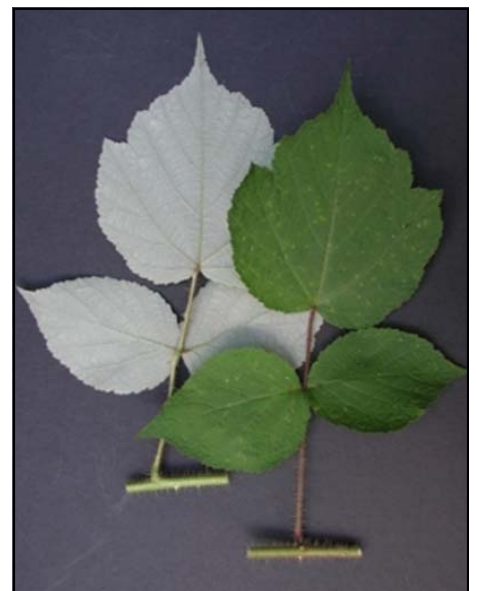


Photo: Leslie Mehrhoff, U. of Connecticut,
www.invasive.org

How to Control this Species:

Manual

Plants can be removed by hand pulling with thick gloves or by using a four-prong spading fork, especially when the soil is moist. All roots and branches must be removed to prevent re-sprouting.

Look-A-Likes:

There are two native *Rubus* shrubs that might be confused with wineberry. Neither has the abundant reddish hairs and thorns (see photo on right) that mark wineberry.

Common blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*)



Photo: Britt Slattery, USFWS

Flowering raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*)



Photo: Sten, <http://en.wikipedia.org>

Chemical

Use of a systemic herbicide like glyphosate or triclopyr is also effective at controlling this species. Herbicide can be sprayed on the leaves, or the plant can be cut near the base and the herbicide painted on the exposed stump.



Photo: Leslie Mehrhoff, U. Of Connecticut,
www.invasive.org

Native Alternatives:

In addition to the look-a-alike *Rubus* species shown below, there are other native shrubs that provide good food for wildlife, including red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) and common winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), shown below).



Photo: Dow Gardens Archive,
www.forestryimages.org

References:

Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health:

<http://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=3072>

Invasive Exotic Plant Pest Tutorial: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/invasivetutorial/wineberry.htm>

Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas: <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/midatlantic.pdf>

For More Information:

To learn more about invasive species in Pennsylvania, visit:

DCNR Invasive Species Site: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/conservation/science/invasivespecies/index.htm>