

# Weed Information Sheet:



## common blackberry

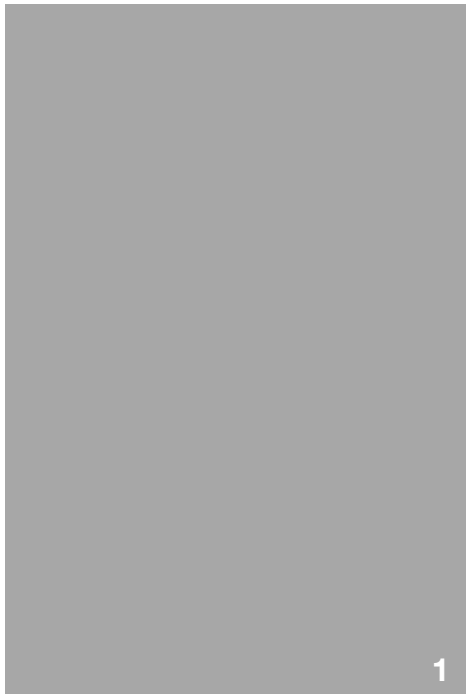
*Rubus allegheniensis*

### Identification:

**Rosaceae (Rose family)**

**Common** Perennial shrub, deciduous **Height:** 3-6' **Width:** 3-6' **Leaf Arrangement:** alternate  
**Flower:** White **Blooms:** Late spring to Early **Fruit:** Black berry **Fall Color:**

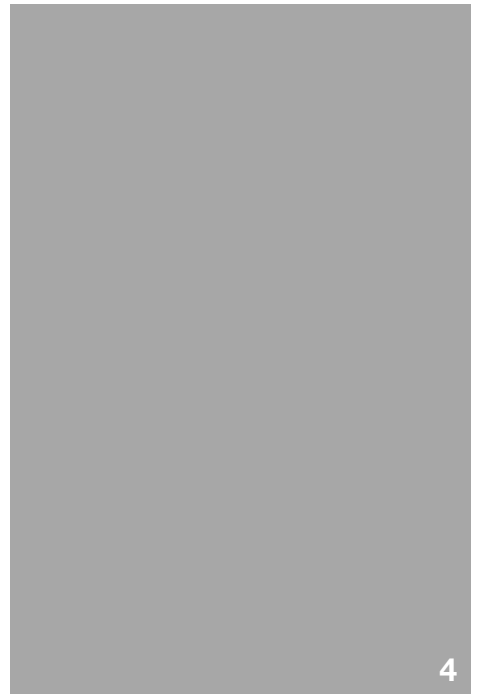
Raspberries typically have leaves with three to five leaflets, white, five-petaled flowers that develop into red or black berries. **Common blackberry** has leaves which are typically divided into five leaflets. The stems, which can reach over 5' in height, exhibit grooves or ridges running down their length with large, stout, widely spaced thorns. Ripe berries are black.



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common blackberry

*Rubus allegheniensis*

AKA:

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## Description & Impact:

Wild raspberries and blackberries are small shrubs in the rose family with sharp and sturdy thorns which discourage most herbivores and can make it difficult to traverse through woodlands. These same thorny brambles can be habitat for small animals to hide from predators. Raspberries produce large, sweet berries which are edible to humans and an important food source for song birds and other wildlife. However, raspberries can act aggressively in disturbed environments, such as woodlands that have been grazed or where tree and brush has been cleared. It is sometimes necessary to “knock back” these native shrubs in order to return balance to the plant community.

## Control Methods:

**Organic:** A prescribed burn and/or mowing can be effective at reducing raspberry density and vigor if repeated multiple times over 1-2 years. Spring and fall burns are both effective, but mowing should focus on June around when the raspberries bloom repeat mowing treatments as the raspberries resprout and leaf-out.

**Chemical:** After mowing or burning a foliar application of glyphosate ((Round-Up®, etc.) can be used as the raspberries resprout and leaf-out. Broadleaf-specific herbicides such as triclopyr (Garlon® 4, Brush-B-Gon®) can be used if you are concerned about killing nearby grasses. Another method involves cutting the raspberry stems to the ground and applying a concentrated solution of either glyphosate or triclopyr to the stump.

Always read herbicide labels carefully before use and apply according to the instruction on the product label.

## Citations:



## American red raspberry

*Rubus idaeus*

### Identification:

**Rosaceae (Rose family)**

**Common** Perennial shrub, deciduous **Height:** 2-4' **Width:** 3-6' **Leaf Arrangement:** alternate  
**Flower:** White **Blooms:** Late spring to Early **Fruit:** Red berry **Fall Color:**

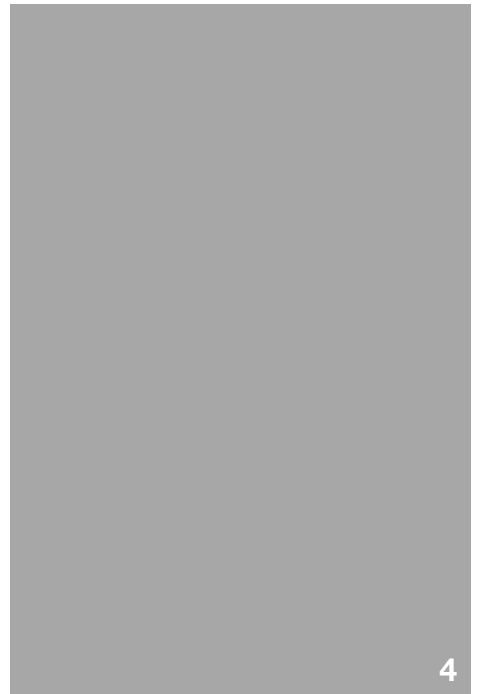
The underside of the leaves are white and stems are reddish, but appear pale with a glaucous coating. This is similar to black raspberry, but the difference can be found in the thorns. In black raspberry, the thorns are larger and well-spaced with plenty of room between them to grab the stem with your fingers. On red raspberry the thorns are fine, almost hair-like, and so abundant that it is impossible to touch the stem without getting pricked. They have three leaflets, rarely five, and when five are present they are arranged in a pinnately compound arrangement rather than the apparently radial arrangement of leaflets found in many other *Rubus*. Flowers are white with five-petaled developing into red berries.



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## American red raspberry

*Rubus idaeus*

**AKA: red raspberry, wild red raspberry**

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### **Description & Impact:**

Wild raspberries and blackberries are small shrubs in the rose family with sharp and sturdy thorns which discourage most herbivores and can make it difficult to traverse through woodlands. These same thorny brambles can be habitat for small animals to hide from predators. Raspberries produce large, sweet berries which are edible to humans and an important food source for song birds and other wildlife. However, raspberries can act aggressively in disturbed environments, such as woodlands that have been grazed or where tree and brush has been cleared. It is sometimes necessary to “knock back” these native shrubs in order to return balance to the plant community.

### **Control Methods:**

**Organic:** A prescribed burn and/or mowing can be effective at reducing raspberry density and vigor if repeated multiple times over 1-2 years. Spring and fall burns are both effective, but mowing should focus on June around when the raspberries bloom repeat mowing treatments as the raspberries resprout and leaf-out.

**Chemical:** After mowing or burning a foliar application of glyphosate ((Round-Up®, etc.) can be used as the raspberries resprout and leaf-out. Broadleaf-specific herbicides such as triclopyr (Garlon® 4, Brush-B-Gon®) can be used if you are concerned about killing nearby grasses. Another method involves cutting the raspberry stems to the ground and applying a concentrated solution of either glyphosate or triclopyr to the stump.

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### **Citations:**

# Weed Information Sheet:

## black raspberry

*Rubus occidentalis*

### Identification:

**Rosaceae (Rose family)**

**Common** Perennial shrub, deciduous **Height:** 2-4' **Width:** 3-6' **Leaf Arrangement:** alternate  
**Flower:** White **Blooms:** Late spring to Early **Fruit:** Black berry **Fall Color:**

THIS INFORMATION SHEET IS A DRAFT. Information should be accurate, but may be incomplete.

Raspberries typically have leaves with three to five leaflets, white, five-petaled flowers that develop into red or black berries. The leaves of **black raspberries** are typically divided into three leaflets while the underside of the leaves are very pale, near white. Mature stems of this species have an arching structure, grow up to 4' in height and are thorny and wine red in color. Immature stems are pale green. These stems are covered in a layer of "glaucous" wax which gives them a pale appearance, but rubs off easily. The thorns are far enough apart that you can grab the stem in your fingers with out getting pricked. Ripe berries are black.





## black raspberry

*Rubus occidentalis*

AKA:



### Description & Impact:

Wild raspberries and blackberries are small shrubs in the rose family with sharp and sturdy thorns which discourage most herbivores and can make it difficult to traverse through woodlands. These same thorny brambles can be habitat for small animals to hide from predators. Raspberries produce large, sweet berries which are edible to humans and an important food source for song birds and other wildlife. However, raspberries can act aggressively in disturbed environments, such as woodlands that have been grazed or where tree and brush has been cleared. It is sometimes necessary to “knock back” these native shrubs in order to return balance to the plant community.

### Control Methods:

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### Citations:

# Weed Information Sheet:



## Himalayan blackberry

*Rubus armeniacus*

### Identification:

**Rosaceae (Rose family)**

Rare Perennial shrub, deciduous Height: Width: Leaf Arrangement: alternate  
Flower: White Blooms: Fruit: Fall Color:

From WI DNR:

Leaves & Stems: Stems are erect and arching, tips root when they come in contact with the soil. Stems are reddish in color and strongly angular with large, hooked thorns. Mature canes are glabrous (smooth, without hairs). Canes die back each year (root perennial) but remain standing through the winter. Leaves are palmately compound, usually with five leaflets, but sometimes three on younger growth. Leaflets are unequally, coarsely toothed, and round to broadly oblong with an abrupt tip at the apex. Leaves are green above with white-felt or silverish hue beneath. Undersides of the leaf margins have a row of thorns.

Flowers: Flowers are white - pinkish in color, five petaled with numerous stamens, and borne in large terminal clusters.

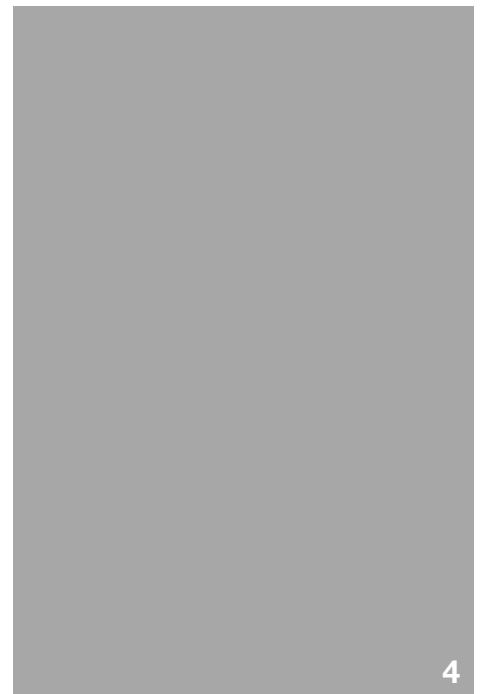
Fruits & Seeds: Fruits are dry and red when immature, turning into large, shiny berries, deep purple - black when mature in fall. Fruits are edible. Berries can persist on the shrubs into winter.



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# Weed Information Sheet:



**RED HEAD** Ecological  
Consulting

Himalayan blackberry

*Rubus armeniacus*

AKA: Rubus discolor

**NR-40 Prohibited**

Description & Impact:

Control Methods:

Citations:

Updated: 4/9/2026