

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 summer **Fruit:** Red berry **Fall Color:**

The underside of the leaves of red raspberry 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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AKA: red raspberry, wild red raspberry

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. These include woodlands that have a history of cattle grazing and in areas where deer browsing is intense enough to limit the growth of more palatable plants. Sometimes the abundance of raspberries only becomes apparent after logging or restoration efforts involving tree and brush has been cleared. As a result, it is sometimes necessary to “knock back” these native shrubs in order to return balance to the plant community.

Control Methods:

Cutting and treating: The most effective method for killing raspberries involves cutting the raspberry stems to the ground and applying a concentrated solution of either glyphosate or triclopyr to the stump. Though effective, this approach will be very time-consuming for larger populations. Always read herbicide labels carefully before use and apply according to the instruction on the product label.

Prescribed burns will keep small woody plants like raspberries in-check. However, do not expect fire alone to suppress dense stands of raspberries. Initial control should be done by cutting and treating or repeated mowing with fire maintaining the health of the natural area over time.

Mowing can be effective at reducing raspberry density and vigor if repeated multiple times over 1-2 years. Mowing should be done either in early-May shortly after the raspberries fully leaf-out, or in June when the raspberries bloom. Mowing should be done as high as possible while still cutting below the lowest leaves on the plants. If the raspberries resprout vigorously, repeat the mowing roughly a month later when they’ve fully resprouted, again mowing just below the lowest leaves (to limit damage to other nearby plants).

Alternately, after mowing or burning a foliar application of glyphosate ((Round-Up®, etc.) can be used as the raspberries resprout and have fully leafed-out. Broadleaf-specific herbicides such as triclopyr (Garlon® 4, Brush-B-Gon®) can be used if you are concerned about killing nearby grasses.

Citations: