



WINEBERRY (*RUBUS PHOENICOLASIUS*)

PLANT FACTS

Wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*) is a mid-size, perennial, berry-producing viney shrub or bramble within the rose family (*rosaceae*). It is self-fertile and pollinated by insects. It grows and spreads rapidly, with trailing canes usually 4 to 5 feet in length but reaching up to 9 feet in the right conditions. New canes grow liberally from the base of the plant and produce new cloned plants easily at any point where the canes touch soil. The canes are covered in red, glandular (liquid producing) hairs. The sticky liquid produced by the glands resembles that of a carnivorous plant, but seem to serve a defensive purpose in the case of the Wineberry.

Both it and the common red raspberry are within the *Idaeobatus* sub-genus of the *Rubus* genus, perhaps explaining why the Wineberry is also called the wine raspberry. Also known as the Japanese Wineberry, the plant is native to Asia and was cultivated in North America just before the twentieth century. Due to its rapid growth potential and ability to out-compete native plants, it is listed as an invasive species in several States and is commonly found in the Eastern United States from Georgia to Maine and Canada in both rural and urban locations.

GROWING INFO

Wineberry is a hardy plant that can survive in zones 4-8. It can thrive in a variety of soil conditions, but prefers well-drained and nutrient-rich loam. Although tolerant of part shade (adapted as a forest edge plant), it is most productive in full sun. Like other related bramble species, individual Wineberry canes only live for two years and do not produce fruit the first year. The plant is susceptible to Wineberry latent virus and can also be a carrier for diseases that affect other species in the *Rubus* genus.

Winter/Spring: New canes pop up in the spring but don't produce fruit in their first year.

Summer: On second year canes, the hairy orange fruit first appears in late spring and then ripens to a bright wine-red color in early summer (usually July in the Philadelphia region).

Fall/Winter: Second year canes die back after fruiting and can be pruned out in winter.

Transplanting and new plantings of Wineberry could be done in fall, but due to the Wineberry's 'invasive' nature, one should instead consider planting similar native members of the *Rubus* genus, such as Black Raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*).

NUTRITIONAL BENEFITS

The Wineberry is a delicious fresh-eating, freezer tolerant fruit. The fruit, best when wine red, is similar in taste to raspberries with a tart twist. Wineberries have similar health benefits as raspberries and are a good source of vitamin C, antioxidants, minerals, and fiber. In addition to fresh eating, Wineberries make great preserves, pies, and other desserts. As a bonus, the more you harvest, the less this invasive plant will be spread by birds and other animals!

Wineberry can be distinguished from related species by the red hairs on the stem. Although most look-alikes are also edible, always be sure to properly identify a plant before eating.

PROPAGATION

Because of its aggressive habits and classification as an invasive in some states, we don't recommend intentionally planting or propagating Wineberries. In addition to their rapid vegetative spread, their berries are beloved by birds and other animals and thus tend to pop up everywhere without additional human intervention.

Propagation through cuttings or by seed are relatively easy, but we recommend finding an existing patch in your community from which to harvest- chances are there are plenty around!

