

# What's aggressive, persistent and runs rampant through the landscape?

## The Culprit: Wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*)



*Wineberry creates prickly and impenetrable thickets.*

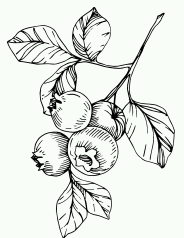
Wineberry was introduced to North America in the 1890s as breeding stock for raspberries.

**Now we know =>**

Wineberry is one of the worst invasive shrubs in the rich, mesic forests of the Blue Ridge Mountains and surrounding areas.

### Why It's a Problem

- Displaces native vegetation, including native edible berry shrubs, and reduces plant diversity
- Produces prickly, impenetrable thickets that reduce an area's wildlife habitat and recreation value
- Grows rapidly and prevents light from reaching lower-growing plants such as wildflowers



## What Does It Look Like?



Has three leaflets per leaf rather than five, which separates it from many blackberry species. The underside of its leaves is silvery.

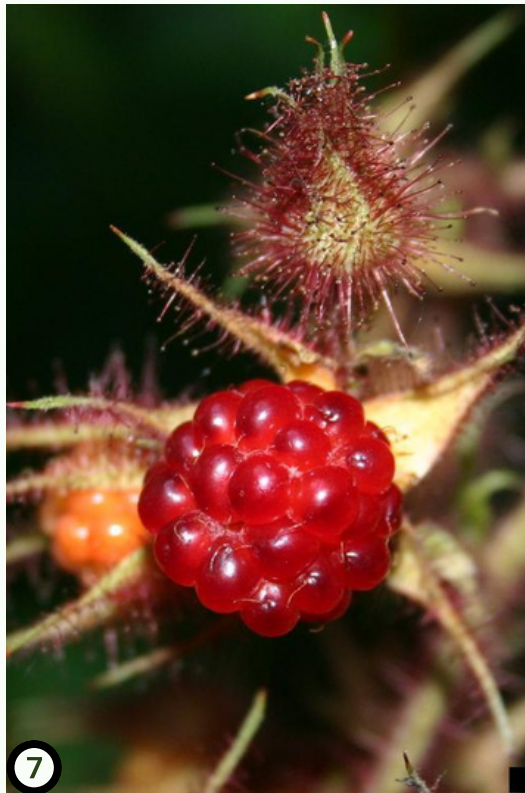


Fine red hairs that grow densely on its stems, giving it a reddish hue. The canes start growing early in the spring and can be easily spotted.





Unique to wineberry are its small, greenish, hairy flowers with white petals. Its fruit remains covered by sepals (greenish petal-like structures) until almost ripe.



Fruit ripens in mid to late summer and is vibrantly red when ripe.

## How Do I Control It?

- In early spring, individual small plants can be pulled by hand when the soil is damp. Pull up by the root.
- Foliar herbicide treatment for larger patches and infestations is better utilized in the summer and fall.



Grab the canes at ground level and pull steadily. Use a garden fork or mattock if you need help to pry them out.

## Additional Information

### Blue Ridge PRISM

-- [Wineberry Fact Sheet](#)

-- [Resources on Invasive Plants](#)



## Photo Credits

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