

Scientific Name: *Rubus phoenicolasius*

Common Name: Wineberry

Updated: 5/5/2016

A. Priority: C

Description – The name *Rubus phoenicolasius* translates as "blackberry with purple hairs." The mature plant has long stems (canes) that are upright and arching and covered with distinctive glandular red hairs and small spines. The hairs give the canes a reddish color when seen from a distance. Under favorable conditions, canes may grow to a length of 9 feet. Leaves consist of three heart-shaped, serrated leaflets with purplish veins and are silvery white tomentose on the underside. Small greenish flowers with white petals and reddish hairs occur in spring. The very edible raspberry like fruit is bright red and ripens during June and July.

- B. Damage and threats** – Wineberry is a vigorous grower and can form dense thickets covering large areas, displacing many native plants in the process. Wineberry poses a threat to the native plants that grow in forest, field, stream and wetland edge habitats, open woods, and savannas and prairies. Wineberry reproduces by seeds, and through vegetative means including root buds and the sprouting of new plants from where canes touch the soil. The drupes are sought after and dispersed by various birds and mammals (including humans).

C. Management Options

Mechanical Control:

Wineberry can be controlled by hand pulling. The soil should be moist and care should be taken to remove all root structures as resprouting can occur. Bag and remove all material to ensure resprouting does not occur. Cutting is not recommended as a control measure; as this will cause the stem to vigorously resprout. The removal of all of the root system is required to prevent resprouting.

Chemical Control: Use of a systematic herbicide is the best option to control *Rubus*. We recommend using aquatic formulations of herbicides in this region to limit potentially unwanted effects to the surrounding environment.

- a. Foliar Spray** – This method involves spraying a dilute herbicide directly onto the plants leaves. Application needs to occur when foliage is present, sometime between full leaf and the onset of fall for full effectiveness. Caution should be taken when applying herbicide with this method as non-target plants can easily be killed by drift or overspray. Application should cover at least 80% of the leaves. To treat, use a 2-4% solution of aquatic triclopyr in water with a 0.5% non-ionic surfactant and apply directly to leaves until just before runoff. Air temperatures must be above 65 degrees and winds should be lower than 5 mph.

- b. Cut Stump** – This method involves cutting the vine as close to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch from the ground as possible (no more than 5in.) and immediately applying a systematic herbicide. It is best to use this method between summer and fall, but it may be used as long as the ground is not frozen. To treat using this method, apply a 25-50% formulation of aquatic glyphosate or triclopyr directly to the cut stump.

D. Recommended Management Strategy

- a.** As this species rarely forms dense stands in our area, we recommend controlling this species mechanically by hand pulling and bagging as described above or via the cut stump method.

E. Additional and Updated Information

For additional information including photographs and the most up to date control recommendations please visit www.wachng.org/Plants.