

Rubus phoenicolasius, Wineberry

A relative of Raspberry, Wineberry may have originally been planted as a crop. The fruits have a tangier, wine-like taste to them and can be baked into pies. In Cap-Mo, the plant is mostly found at this time along the Hudson River but it does well in woodland habitats which lead to the assumption that the population extends further to the east and west of the river than currently reported.

Population Status: Confirmed- Greene, Albany, and Columbia Co.?

Description: Wineberry's easiest identification feature is the fuzziness of its thorny red stems and the large leaves with white undersides. The fruit itself is covered by a protective layer until it matures, when it looks much like a large, ripe raspberry. The leaves appear in sets of three and are often lobed. The whiteness of the underside of the leaf comes from a dense layer of hairs. Flowers of this plant have five petals and are produced in the late spring and are about six to ten millimeters wide.

Control: Can be manually pulled in most cases.

Look-alikes: Wild Raspberry (native) looks like wineberry, though it does not have the hairs on the stem or the large leaf size.

Flower Time and Description: Wineberries bloom in late spring to early summer though they are recognizable throughout the year. The petals are very small and are purplish-pink in color.

