

Raspberry

Rubus idaeus

Rubus idaeus (wild red raspberry) is a deciduous perennial shrub, often considered a weed outside its native range due to its rapid spread via underground suckers and rhizomes, creating dense, prickly thickets. It colonizes disturbed areas like roadsides, scrub, and forest edges. Control requires removing entire root systems or applying systemic herbicides.

Identification

Fruit: Red, aggregate drupelets (up to 15mm) that detach from the central core when ripe, leaving the berry hollow.

Leaves: Compound (pinnate) with 3–5 egg-shaped leaflets; dark green on top, with a white, felty (tomentose) underside.

Stems (Canes): Biennial, with greenish primocanes (first year) and woody, brownish floricanes (second year). Stems feature weak, straight prickles or bristles rather than strong, hooked thorns.



Flowers: Small (diameter), white, 5-petaled flowers, appearing in nodding clusters in late spring/summer.

Growth Habit: Erect, cane-forming shrub with dense suckering, forming patches in sunny or semi-shaded areas like forest margins, roadsides, and open woodland

Control

Digging/Grubbing: For small patches, dig out the entire root system, especially the crown, which is essential to prevent resprouting.

Mowing/Slashing: Repeatedly mow or slash canes, particularly around flowering time (June), to reduce vigor. This is most effective if done multiple times over 1–2 years.

Herbicides: Systemic herbicides are the most reliable method. Glyphosate: Effective for spraying as plants resprout and leaf out, particularly from flowering to early leaf fall. Triclopyr: A broadleaf-specific herbicide that can be used if the surrounding grass needs to be protected. Foliar Spray: Spray actively growing plants, ensuring full coverage of leaves and canes. Cut-Stump Method: Cut canes to the ground and apply concentrated glyphosate or triclopyr to the freshly cut stump within 30 seconds.

