

European dewberry

Rubus caesius

Description

Cultivated for its fruit and as an ornamental plant. Not commonly found in North America, however, it has been found in Kentucky and New York with more recent reports on uncultivated sites in Michigan and Iowa.

Habit

Shrub growing to a height of 1.5 - 7 feet tall.

Leaves

Alternate, trifoliate. Petioles 4-6 cm. long, often glandular. Stipules lanceolate, 0.6-1 cm. long, 0.2-0.3 cm. wide, hairy, marginal glands. Leaflets thin, broadly ovate to almost round, 4-7 cm. long, 3-7 cm. wide, basally round, doubly serrate margins. Blade somewhat pubescent, lighter green abaxially. Lateral leaflets nearly sessile, terminal leaflets have 1-2.5 cm. long petiolule that is glandular.

Stems

Round canes, tinged red when exposed to





sunlight, greenish-yellow to brown in color, glabrous to glabrescent, glaucous with irregular, hooked prickles, root at tips. Reaching a height of about 5 feet.

Flowers

Perfect, white in color, up to 6 cm. across, 5 parted calyx and corolla. Corymbose inflorescence that can be axillary or terminal bearing up to 10 flowers; terminal inflorescences reach up to 14 cm long and bear the most flowers. Pedicel is 1-1.5 cm. long, pubescent, glandular, covered with small prickles. Bracts broadly lanceolate, pubescent or glandular pubescent, 0.5-0.8 cm. long.

Fruits and Seeds

Cluster of drupes, bluish-black in color, glaucous. Drupelets are irregular sized and contain one seed each. Seeds are 2.2-3.2 mm. long and 1.3-2 mm. across.

Habitat

Native to Europe and Asia. Can be found in roadsides, wood margins, riverbanks, valleys, ravines and mid-successional dunes.

Reproduction

Vegetatively by runner-like shoots and by seeds dispersed by animals.

Similar



Midwest Invasive Species
Information Network

Other species of blackberries (*Rubus* spp.).

Credits

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