

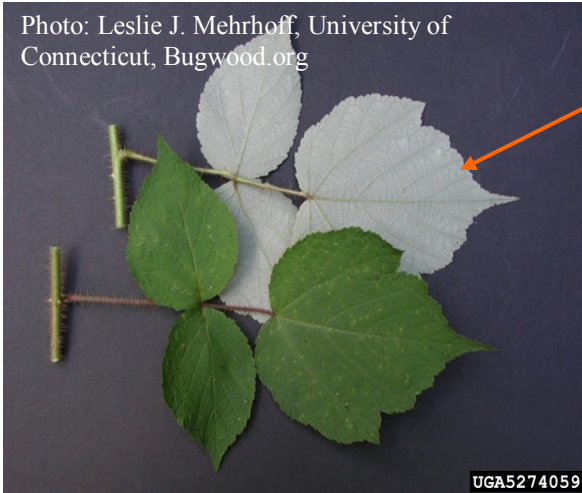
New Plant Invaders to Watch For

Wineberry

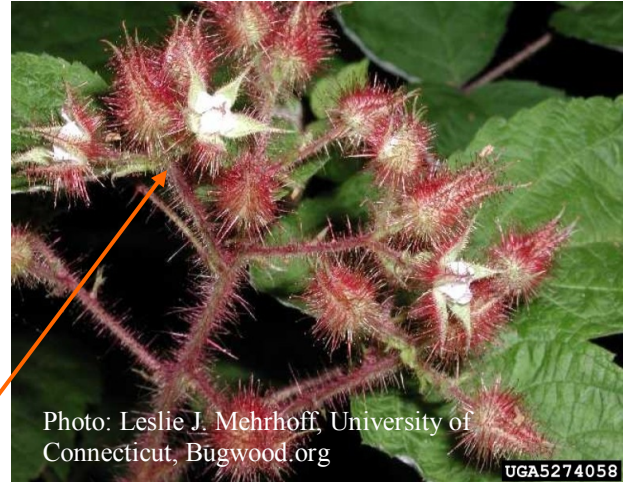
(Rubus phoenicolasius)

The Threat: Wineberry is a deciduous shrub with upright and arching stems that can reach 6 feet in height. It forms dense masses of vegetation that crowd out native plants. It produces large quantities of fruit that are eaten by birds and mammals, which then disperse the seeds. Wineberry invades open areas in uplands and wetlands. Massachusetts is near the northern limit for winter hardiness of wineberry and projected climate warming may allow this species to proliferate here.

Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Alternate compound leaves have three leaflets with toothed edges. Undersides of leaflets are whitish and hairy.



Flowers are small with white petals. Flower buds and stems are covered with reddish-purple hairs.

Red or orange-red fruits ripen in June and July. The plants are spread by seed and vegetative means. New plants may form from root buds and where the tips of stems touch the soil.

What to do : Learn to recognize the distinguishing features of wineberry shown in the images on this page. If found, immediately report the finding to Lou Wagner, Mass Audubon Regional Scientist, at 978-927-1122 Extension 2705, or lwagner@massaudubon.org.



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