Rubus occidentalis
Black Raspberry

Also called blackcap. A low, straggly, suckering shrub. Canes are purple with a white bloom, attractive in winter against the snow. Fruit, in July and August, is relished by birds, wildlife and humans. Tolerant of a variety of sites and soils; does well in partial shade. Typical of disturbed sites, old fields, forest margins. Grows well in the vicinity of black walnuts, unlike many plants. Susceptible to powdery mildew and systemic orange rust.

**Suggested companions:** fragrant sumac (Rhus aromatica), gray dogwood (Cornus racemosa), oaks (Quercus sp.), hazelnut (Corylus americana), wild bergamot (Monarda fistulosa), black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia hirta)

Photo Credit: Wisconsin State Herbarium, by Michael Clayton

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Size:**
- 3-6' H
- 6-12' W

**Soil:** Average Garden Soil
- Sandy/Gravelly
- Rich Moist

**Exposure:**
- sun
- filtered shade

**Flower Color:** White

**Bloom Time:**
- May
- June

**Plant in:**

**Groundcover:** No

**Water Tolerant:** No

**Habitat:**
- Forested Upland
- Woodland Margin
- Open field/Prairie

**Other Attributes:**
- Butterfly attracting
- Wildlife attracting
- Winter interest
- Edible fruit
- Deer resistant