

# Plant of the Month: October

# Blackberries



## Trailing Blackberry

*Rubus macropetalus*

Native.

How to recognize:

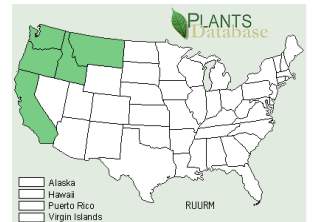
Trails along the ground, up to 25 feet spread.  
Height less than 20 inches.

Stems: slender (1/4"), hairless or slightly prickly.

Leaves are egg-shaped with points, roughly toothed and slightly hairy on both sides. Leaves alternate along the stem, and usually come in 3 leaf clusters, with the center leaf the biggest.

Flowers white. 5 petals.

Bloom in April to July. Berries in August.



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## Non-Native Blackberries

How to recognize: bushes up to 10' tall, in thickets 5—50' long.

Stems are thick—up to 3/4", reddish brown, with stiff thorns.

Himalayan Blackberry, *rubus armeniacus*

How to recognize: Leaves are oval with serrated edges, in groups of 5 leaves. Dark green on top, gray-green on the bottom.



Evergreen (Cutleaf) Blackberry, *rubus laciniatus*

Backs of leaves are hairy, 3—5 leaves per stem, deeply "toothed" leaflets, with jagged tips.



# Comparing Blackberry Leaves



**Trailing**  
(Cluster of 3)



**Himalayan**  
(Cluster of 5)



**Evergreen**  
("Cut-leaf")

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## Beware Stinging Nettle!



How to recognize:

Plant is 3—7' tall.

Leaves paired on the stem, 2 –5" long.

Leaves & stems are very hairy. Some of those hairs will sting!

If stung, rub with spores on the back of sword fern leaves, or crush some nettle stems and apply the juice. Or use aloe vera gel, baking soda and water, diaper rash ointment or toothpaste.

