

## Rubus - Care Guide

### Introduction To Rubus

#### *Ornamental bramble*

Rubus come in many shapes and sizes, some with fruits – some without, some with serious prickles – some without, some with a shrubby upright habit and some as groundcover plants, some as evergreens and some are deciduous. Some species need serious pruning, and some are best left well alone.

The plants which we offer are not common blackberries or brambles; Rubus fruticosus, or raspberries; Rubus idaeus. Ornamental brambles are cultivated for their flowers, foliage, or attractive winter shoots but few produce real quantities of edible fruits either as blackberries or raspberries. Many are interesting plants for the shrub border or for growing as freestanding plants in a woodland context. Others make seriously good and vigorous groundcover which can take over steep banks or hedges in a carpet and prevent almost all other weeds from getting a look in.

With all this in mind it is necessary to introduce a few categories of our own to help make your choice of which plant to grow rather easier.

### Evergreen Groundcover Rubus

R. tricolor, the Korean raspberry, does have yellowish-red raspberries which are very satisfactory with your cornflakes in August or September. As an evergreen, creeping shrub, it takes quite some beating as groundcover. When lots of plants are grown together on a stony bank the

creeping and arching shoots, which are covered in red bristles (not prickles), can form a dense mound 2-3ft tall. A 20ft bare bank can be covered in no time at all and the white flowers in summer are attractive too.



R. tricolor covering bank



R. tricolor covering bank



Rubus tricolor



Rubus tricolor



Rubus tricolor



Rubus tricolor 'Betty Ashburner'



Rubus tricolor 'Betty Ashburner'

R. 'Beneden' is a spreading deciduous shrub with arching, thornless, branches growing eventually to about 10ft with a smaller spread. It has attractive peeling bark and rose-like saucer-shaped solitary white flowers in late spring and summer.



Rubus spectabilis  
'Olympic Double'



Rubus spectabilis  
'Olympic Double'



Rubus spectabilis  
'Olympic Double'



Rubus spectabilis  
'Olympic Double'



Rubus odoratus



Rubus odoratus



Rubus odoratus



*Rubus odoratus*



*Rubus lineatus*



*Rubus lineatus*



*Rubus lineatus*



*Rubus lineatus*



*Rubus lineatus*



*Rubus lineatus*



*Rubus henryi*



*Rubus henryi*

*R. calophyllus* grows as a shrub to around 3ft in height with minutely prickly arching stems. The long leaves are silky-hairy underneath with prickles on the midrib. The flowers are a striking claret red and this is followed by rather insipid orange or red fruit. This Rubus needs protection from cold winds.



*Rubus calophyllus*



*Rubus cockburnianus*



*Rubus cockburnianus*



*R. cockburnianus*  
'Golden Vale'



*R. cockburnianus*  
'Golden Vale'



*R. cockburnianus*  
'Golden Vale'



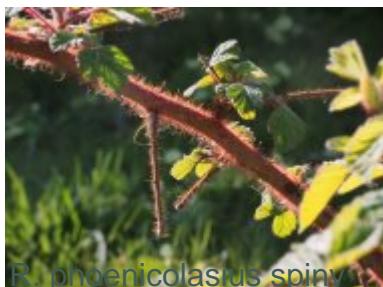
Rubus phoenicolasioides



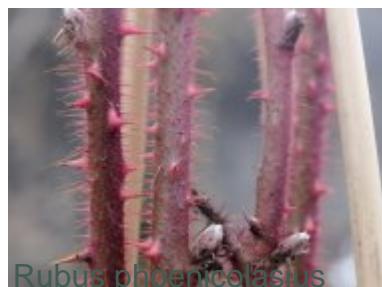
Rubus phoenicolasioides



Rubus phoenicolasioides



R. phoenicolasioides spiny stems



Rubus phoenicolasioides



Rubus phoenicolasioides



Rubus 'Coronarius'



Rubus thibetanus



Rubus thibetanus



Rubus thibetanus



Rubus thibetanus

The rare *R. ichangensis* is a wall shrub or one you can allow its new shoots to romp up through a nearby evergreen. Our stock plant has a lot of purple-red blotching on its older leaves which can be attractive. It easily covers a 12ft high wall and, after initially needing to be tied in, it now grows through several neighbouring plants. The flowers are in foot long terminal and branched clusters. The flowers are quite small and white and, in late September or October, some of the panicle develops small red raspberry-like fruits which are delicious even in small quantities. After a dry summer you get more fruit than after a wet one. The prickles are largely insignificant but can catch you out!



Rubus ichigensis



Rubus ichigensis



Rubus ichangensis



Rubus ichangensis



Rubus ichangensis



Rubus ichangensis



Rubus squarrosus



Rubus squarrosus

View this video on Youtube here [https://www.youtube.com/pq\\_OlkHT1Po](https://www.youtube.com/pq_OlkHT1Po)

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**Burncoose Nurseries: Gwennap, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 6BJ**

Telephone: +44 (0) 1209 860316 Fax: +44 (0) 1209 860011 Email: info@burncoose.co.uk

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