PLANT FACT SHEET

Rubus occidentalis L.

GENUS *Rubus* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES Blackcap, Black dewberry, Black raspberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Shoots, Leaves - tea

The fruit are eaten raw. They are also dried or used in jams, jellies, pies, sherbets, preserved or made into vinegar. They are canned.
Young shoots are eaten like rhubarb.
The leaves and the bark of the roots are used for tea. Wilted leaves should not be used. They should be fresh or dried.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 3 m high and spreads 3 m wide. It loses its leaves during the year. The stems are curved and prickly. The leaves are dark green and have 5 leaflets on non flowering stems and 3 leaflets on flowering stems. The leaves are white and like felt underneath. The flowers are white. The fruit are dark purple. They are edible. Some named varieties occur.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It suits hardiness zones 3-9.

NOTES

There are about 250 Rubus species.

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