

# Salmonberry

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## Species Description

**Scientific name:** *Rubus spectabilis*

**AKA:** Fairy Fern

**Native to:** North America

**Habitat:** Conifer, broadleaf and mixed woodland.

Hedgerows, river banks, parks and demesnes.

*R. spectabilis* is a deciduous, vigorous, suckering shrub, it is naturalised in woods and hedges. It can often form large thickets up to 1-4m tall. It has weak spines occurring lower down the stems and 7–22 cm long green trifoliate, toothed leaf, which is mostly hairless on both the upper and lower surfaces.

Flowers are 2–3 cm in diameter, with five pinkish-purple petals; they are produced from early spring to early summer. The berries ripen from early May to late July (fruiting in Northern Ireland is low compared to Blackberry or Raspberry) and resembles a large glossy yellow to orange-red raspberry 1.5–2 cm long with many drupelets.

Salmonberry is common throughout Northern Ireland. It can reproduce vegetatively, once established it spreads through rhizome extension, suckering and layering of arching stems.

**Salmonberry is listed under Schedule 9 of The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and as such, it is an offence to plant or otherwise allow this species to grow in the wild.**



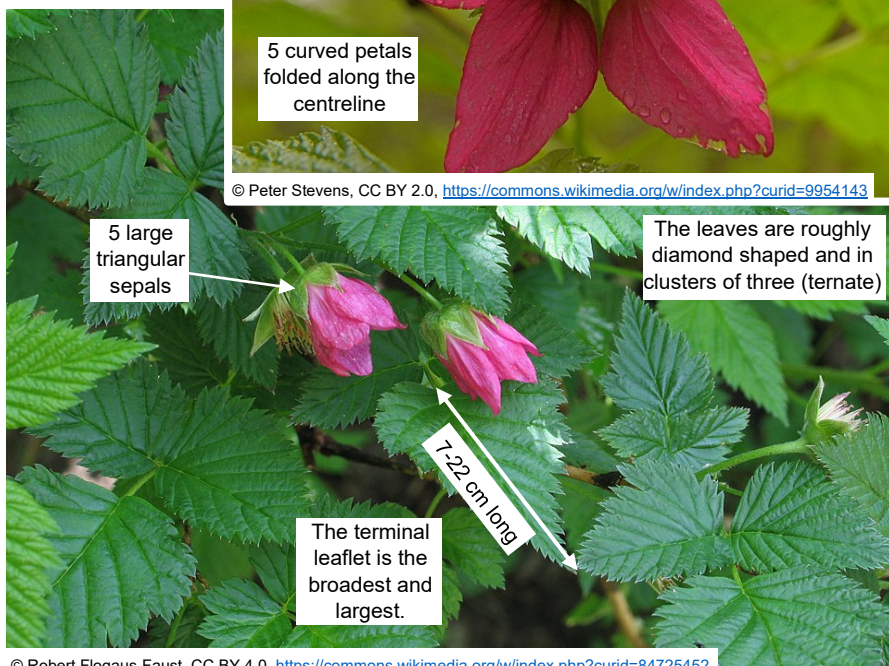
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## Key ID Features



5 curved petals  
folded along the  
centreline

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5 large  
triangular  
sepals

The leaves are roughly  
diamond shaped and in  
clusters of three (ternate)

The terminal  
leaflet is the  
broadest and  
largest.

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The fruit is orange, rather than  
the pinkish salmon-colour which  
'salmonberry' might imply.

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Report any sightings via; CEDaR Online Recording - <https://www2.habitas.org.uk/records/ISI>, iRecord app or Invasive Species Northern Ireland website - <http://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/report-sighting>



# Identification throughout the year

Salmonberry is deciduous with leaves falling in late October, multiple woody stems will be visible during the winter.

## Impacts

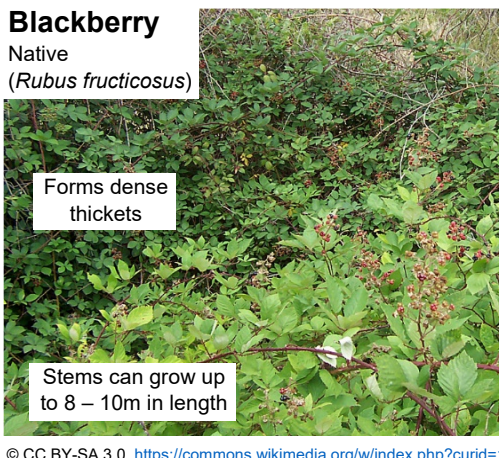
As salmonberry forms dense thickets it can cause the loss of native biodiversity by out-competing and inhibit the regeneration of companion plant species, such as native trees in woodland.

## Similar Species

Salmonberry may be confused with other more common members of the same genus (raspberry and blackberry). A poorly developed salmonberry may be confused with a well-developed Raspberry; however salmonberry is generally thornier and mature stems develop light russet tones (both thorn development and stem colour can vary significantly).

### Blackberry

Native  
(*Rubus fruticosus*)



Forms dense thickets

Stems can grow up to 8 – 10m in length

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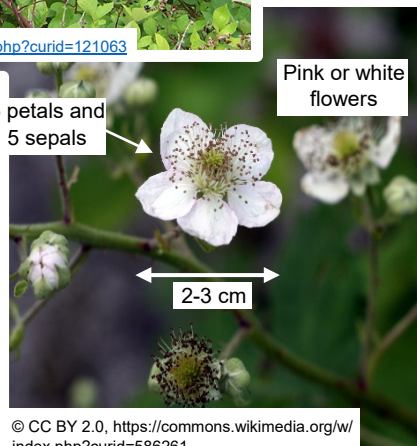
Fruit changes from green to red to black as it ripens

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5 petals and 5 sepals

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Pink or white flowers

2-3 cm

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Alternate leaves divided into 3 or 5 serrated oval shaped leaflets



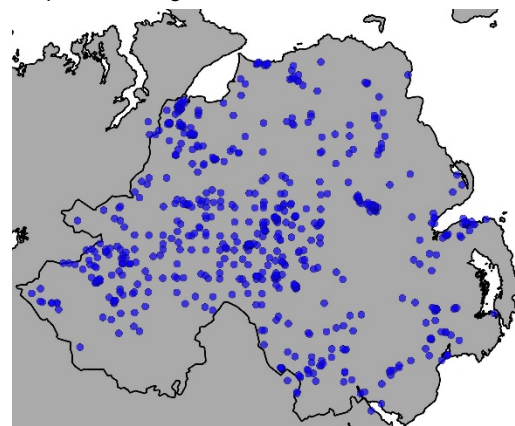
Stalks and mid-rib are prickly

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## Distribution

Widespread throughout Northern Ireland.



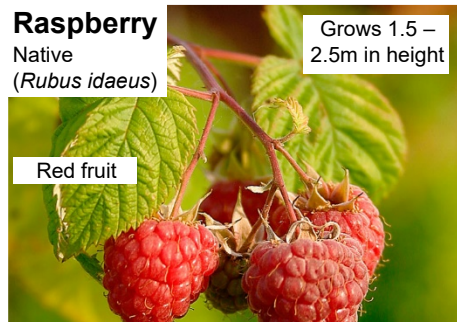
Source: NBN Atlas Northern Ireland <https://northernireland-species.nbnatlas.org/species/NBNSYS0000003324>

Check website for current distribution

### Raspberry

Native  
(*Rubus idaeus*)

Grows 1.5 – 2.5m in height



Red fruit

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Flower 1cm with 5 white petals

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Forms dense thickets

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## References and further reading:

CABI datasheet *Rubus fruticosus* (Blackberry) available <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/47995>  
CABI datasheet *Rubus Spectabilis* (Salmonberry) available <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/48020>