

# Wild Berry Identification

Name	Color	Shape	Description of Plant	Where It Grows	Unique Characteristics	What You Should Know
 <p data-bbox="65 493 367 521">Baneberry (Red or White)</p>	White or bright red	Egg-shaped and smooth	Large, compound leaves; tightly clustered white or red flowers; white berries form in clusters on thick, red stalks while red berries form on thin, green stalks	Found throughout the United States, primarily in shady, wooded areas	Both red and white species are distinguished by a black dot at one end, giving them the nickname, "doll's eyes."	Both white and red baneberries are extremely poisonous.
 <p data-bbox="65 826 199 854">Belladonna</p>	Almost black in appearance	Round and smooth, similar in shape and appearance to a blueberry	Shrub with bell-shaped reddish-purple flowers and egg-shaped, dark green leaves and thick stems	Found throughout the United States	Belladonna berries are very shiny and are larger and darker than blueberries.	All parts of this plant is extremely poisonous.
 <p data-bbox="65 1159 199 1187">Blackberry</p>	Black	Each berry looks like a cluster of tiny, round berries.	Thorny shrub or bush with thick canes; flowers are white; leaves are toothy with three leaflets	Found throughout North America, especially in the Pacific Northwest	Unlike raspberries, blackberries are not hollow inside.	Unripe red blackberries are often mistaken for raspberries, but they taste bitter and tart.
 <p data-bbox="65 1492 220 1520">Buffalo Berry</p>	Dark red or yellow-orange	Round, about the size of a currant	Thorny bush; leaves and branches are silvery white; flowers are yellow and bell-shaped.	Found mainly in the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains along streams, rivers, and wooded areas	When rubbed between the hands or crushed, berries form a soapy, frothy foam.	Berries are generally sour, but those harvested after the first frost are slightly sweeter.

	Dark red-purple	Oblong, about the size of a pea	Thornless tree or shrub; leaves are dull, green, and serrated; flowers are tiny white cylindrical clusters	Found throughout the United States, especially in the Appalachian Mountains and along riverbanks in dense thickets	Each fruit contains one large pit.	Pits and leaves are poisonous and contain a small amount of cyanide, which can be destroyed through cooking or drying.
	Red	Round, looks very similar to a currant	Trailing vines with small pinkish-yellow, bell-shaped flowers; tiny, evergreen leaves	Found in bogs, marshes, or along streams, especially in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Washington, and Oregon	Cranberry stems are very thin and wiry. Cranberries are usually found in moist soil.	Berries are sweetest after the first frost.
	Dark purple-black	Clusters of tiny, round, seed-like berries	Thornless shrub or small tree with tiny, white, clustered flowers (flowers resemble a tiny honeysuckle); leaves are flat	Forests and woodlands throughout the United States	Elderberries grow in flat clusters and are thornless.	Avoid green berries as they may make you sick.
	Dark blue or purple-black	Small, round berries, resembling a blueberry	Shrub grows in dense thickets approximately four-foot tall; flowers are bell-shaped; leaves turn bronze or reddish purple in the fall	Found primarily in the Pacific Northwestern and Northeastern regions, especially on mountain slopes	Each huckleberry contains ten, hard seeds.	Huckleberries are often mistaken as blueberries but can be distinguished by their hard seeds and blue-black color.

Chokecherry

Cranberry

Elderberry

Huckleberry

	Blue	Round, resembles a blueberry	A Juniper can be a tall tree or smaller shrub; leaves are needle-like, very sharp and evergreen	Found throughout the United States	Juniper bark is thin with a distinctive scent (similar to cedar) and comes off in strips.	Berries are edible but bitter and may cause severe stomach upset in some people.
	Red to black	Each mulberry is oval and made up of many tiny berries	Very tall tree growing up to 60 feet; serrated leaves are usually oval with three lobes; flowers are small, fuzzy, white clusters	Found throughout the United States	Mulberries look similar to raspberries or blackberries but are more oval and not round.	Unripe berries or sap may be toxic or hallucinogenic. Berries do not keep well and should be used quickly.
	Bright red	Each berry is a cluster of tiny, round berries	Bramble (shrub) with thorned canes; flowers have white petals with yellow center; leaves have three to five leaflets	Found throughout the United States	All raspberries are hollow. When a raspberry is picked, it leaves behind its receptacle.	Raspberry leaves are also edible and often used in herbal teas.
	Red	Hollow berries resemble raspberries, but are flatter and smaller	Dense shrub that grows in clumps; fuzzy leaves contain five lobes; flowers are white and star-shaped.	Found throughout the United States, especially around railroad tracks, forest edges, and along roadsides	Leaves closely resemble those of a maple tree. Fruit is hollow, resembling a thimble.	Fruit is tart and contains many seeds.

Juniper Berry

Mulberry

Red Raspberry

Thimbleberry

	Blue	Round, resembling a blueberry	Climbing vine; leaves have five leaflets with many teeth; flowers are tiny green clusters.	Found throughout the United States, especially in the eastern regions	Virginia creeper is often confused with poison ivy and often found growing alongside poison ivy.	Berries are extremely toxic to humans.
	Blue-black	Round with a 5-pointed "crown" on one end	Shrub with thin branches; flowers are white or light pink; leaves are broad and often evergreen.	Found throughout the United States, especially in Maine and New Jersey	Wild blueberries are smaller than conventionally grown blueberries; the berries contain many small, soft seeds.	Wild blueberries are often confused with huckleberries but are much lighter in color and seeds are soft.
	Unripe berries are white to light green; ripe berries are deep red.	Oblong shape covered in seeds	Low-growing, creeping plant; leaves are hairy with three leaflets; white flowers have five petals	Found throughout the United States	Berries look almost identical to commercially-grown strawberries but are much smaller.	Be cautious when harvesting wild strawberries, because small critters like toads and spiders often take up residence under the plant's leaves.
	Red	Small, roundish berries are star-shaped on the bottom	Low-growing, creeping plant; leaves are glossy and evergreen; flowers are white and trumpet shaped	Found throughout the United States, especially in forests; is often planted in yards	Leaves have a distinctive wintergreen scent when crushed.	Wintergreen leaves contains methyl salicylate, a form of aspirin, so people allergic to aspirin should avoid this plant.

Virginia Creeper

Wild Blueberry

Wild Strawberry

Wintergreen Berry

 <p>Yew</p>	Bright red	Small, round berries that are open on the end	Small to medium-sized tree; dark, evergreen foliage is flat and needle-like.	Found throughout the United States, in forests; commonly planted in yards	Berries are soft and squishy in texture and have a hard, greenish-blue stone in the center.	Leaves and berries are poisonous.
---	------------	---	--	---	---	-----------------------------------

## Image Sources

### Baneberry image

Sheri Hagwood @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

USDA, NRCS. 2013. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 28 February 2013). National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901 USA.

### Belladonna image

Black Nightshade 1 (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/oldmandancing/5231310634/>) / OldManDancing (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/oldmandancing/>) / CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)

### Blackberries image

Blackberries (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12567713@N00/2750878295/>) / born1945 (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12567713@N00/>) / CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)

### Buffalo berries image

USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Herman, D.E., et al. 1996. *North Dakota tree handbook*. USDA NRCS ND State Soil Conservation Committee; NDSU Extension and Western Area Power Administration, Bismarck.

USDA, NRCS. 2013. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 28 February 2013). National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901 USA.

### Chokecherry image

Chokecherries (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/33037982@N04/6176048533/>) / Leonora Enking (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/33037982@N04/>) / CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)

### Cranberry image

arándano rojo americano (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/martius/8380303592/>) / Manuel Martín Vicente (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/martius/>) / CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)

#### Huckleberry image

Huckleberries! (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/laurelfan/3942902645/>) / Laurel F (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/laurelfan/>) / CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)

#### Juniper berries image

Juniper berries (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ragesoss/1794601045/>) / Sage Ross (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ragesoss/>) / CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)

#### Mulberry image

Mulberry-10 (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/akeg/2644227409/>) / Eric Schmuttenmaer (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/akeg/>) / CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)

#### Raspberry image

Raspberries (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/quinnanya/3743405902/>) / Quinn Dombrowski (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/quinnanya/>) / CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)

#### Thimbleberry image

Thimbleberries (aka *Rubus parviflorus*) (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/iversonic/875014378/in/photostream/>) / Mark Iverson (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/iversonic/>) / CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)

#### Virginia Creeper image

Parthenocissus quinquefolia (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/33037982@N04/4965048107/>) / Leonora Enking (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/33037982@N04/>) / CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)

#### Wild blueberry image

Signal Hill Hike (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/tjerrettenns/7767286166/>) / The Tedster (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/tjerrettenns/>) / CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)

#### Wild strawberry image

Woodland Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/livenature/6247538566/>) / Franco Folini (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/livenature/>) / CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)

#### Wintergreen berry image

Wintergreen with Berry ([http://www.flickr.com/photos/allie\\_k/8045608582/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/allie_k/8045608582/)) / Allie Kade ([http://www.flickr.com/photos/allie\\_k/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/allie_k/)) / CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)

#### Yew berry image

*Taxus baccata* 'Standishii' (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/33037982@N04/3380872616/>) / Leonora Enking (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/33037982@N04/>) / CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)