

***Rubus arcticus* L. ssp. *acaulis* (Michx.) Focke**

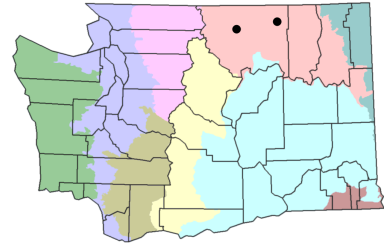
synonym: *Rubus acaulis* Michx.

nagoonberry

Rosaceae - rose family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5T5 / S1



General Description: Strongly rhizomatous, erect, thornless herbaceous perennial with annual flowering stems 2-15 cm tall; covered with fine, long, soft, straight hairs. Leaves 2-5 per stem, with 3 leaflets per blade and conspicuous ovate-lanceolate to oblong-ovate, entire stipules. Leaflets ovate to obovate, (1) 1.5-3 (5) cm long, with rounded to pointed tips and toothed margins.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers usually single and terminal. Calyx with fine, soft hairs; lobes narrowly lanceolate, reflexed, 8-11 mm long. Petals uniformly pink to crimson or rose, or sometimes yellowish toward the base, narrowly obovate, nearly erect, (8) 10-16 mm long, with a clawlike base. Stamens 30-40; filaments broad, narrowed abruptly at the tip. Pistils 20-30, hairless. Style slender, enlarged slightly upward to the large head-shaped to disk-shaped stigma.

Fruits: Aggregate berry about 1 cm broad, composed of weakly coherent drupelets (fleshy, globular fruits surrounding an inner pit). Identifiable June to July.

Identification Tips: This plant is thornless, low to the ground, and more herbaceous than woody. Other *Rubus* species with these characteristics have stolons and white petals that are usually less than 8 mm long. In contrast, *R. arcticus* ssp. *acaulis* lacks stolons and has reddish petals that are usually greater than 8 mm long.

Range: AK, east to Newfoundland, south to OR, in the Rocky Mts. of MT, WY, and CO, and in MN, MI, and ME.

Habitat/Ecology: Grows in a wide variety of environments, ranging from relatively dry to moist areas, including tundra, mountain meadows, bogs, and woods. In WA it occurs in a damp spruce forest and a wet sedge fen with sphagnum moss hummocks. Associated species include Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), willow (*Salix* spp.), twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata*), currant (*Ribes* spp.), horsetail (*Equisetum* spp.), sedges (*Carex* spp.), coltsfoot (*Petasites frigidus* var. *sagittatus*), mosses, shrubby cinquefoil (*Dasiphora fruticosa* ssp. *floribunda*), and marsh cinquefoil (*Comarum palustre*).* Elevations in WA: 1080-1815 m (3550-5950 ft).

Comments: This taxon is also rare in CO, MI, WY, and Newfoundland.

References: Douglas et al. 1998-2002, vol. 4.

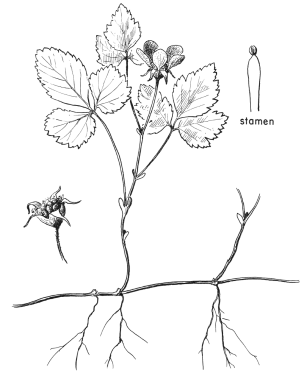


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