
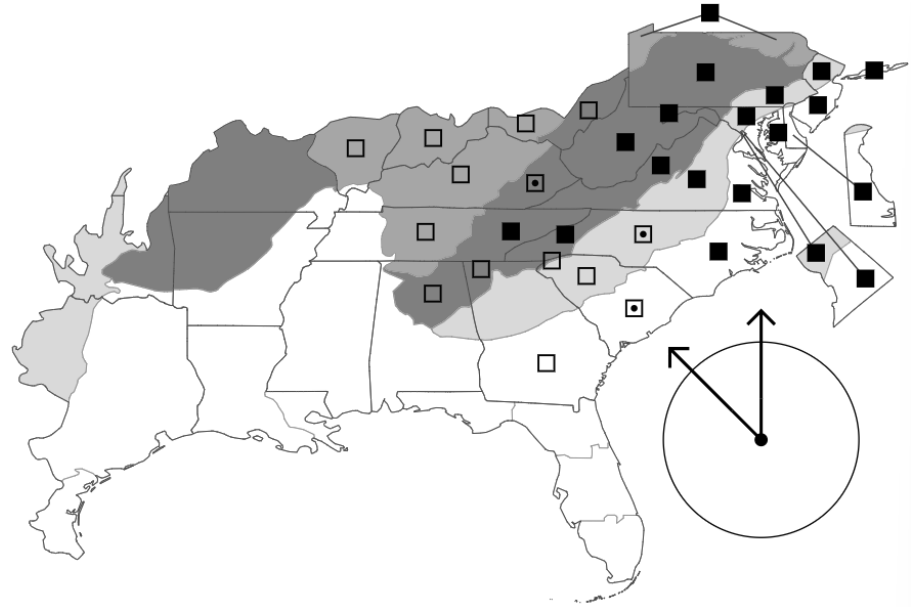


Plant Propagation Protocol for *Rubus hispidus*

ESRM 412 – Native Plant Production

URL: [https://courses.washington.edu/esrm412/protocols/\[year\]/\[USDA Species Code.pdf\]](https://courses.washington.edu/esrm412/protocols/[year]/[USDA Species Code.pdf])

TAXONOMY	
Plant Family	
Scientific Name	Rosaceae Juss. (<i>USDA Plants Database, 2025</i>)
Common Name	Rose family (<i>USDA Plants Database, 2025</i>)
Species Scientific Name	
Scientific Name	<i>Rubus hispidus</i> L. (<i>USDA Plants Database, 2025</i>)
Varieties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rubus hispidus</i> L. var. <i>cupulifer</i> L.H. Bailey • <i>Rubus hispidus</i> L. var. <i>obovalis</i> (Michx.) Fernald (<i>USDA Plants Database, 2025</i>)
Sub-species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rubus hispidus</i> L. • <i>Rubus sempervirens</i> Bigelow (<i>USDA Plants Database, 2025</i>)
Common Synonyms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rubus obovalis</i> Michaux • <i>Rubus obovatus</i> Pers. • <i>R. sempervirens</i> Bigelow (<i>Burnham, 2013</i>)
Common Names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bristly dewberry • Swamp dewberry • Bristly groundberry • Groundberry • Hispid swamp blackberry • Running swamp blackberry (<i>Wikipedia Contributors, 2023</i>)
Species Code (as per USDA Plants database)	RUHI (<i>USDA Plants Database, 2025</i>)
GENERAL INFORMATION	

<p>Geographical range</p>	 <p>(USDA Plants Database, 2025)</p>  <p>(<i>Rubus Hispidus</i> (Swamp Dewberry) - FSUS, 2022)</p>
<p>Ecological distribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moist thickets, open woods, or clearings (<i>Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - the University of Texas at Austin, 2019</i>). • Human-influenced habitats, forest edges, meadows, fields, swamps, wetland margins, and woodlands (<i>Rubus Hispidus</i> (Bristly Blackberry, Swamp Dewberry): <i>Go Botany, 2025</i>). • Bogs, moist woodlands and forests, disturbed moist areas (<i>Rubus Hispidus</i> (Swamp Dewberry) - FSUS, 2022).
<p>Climate and elevation range</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-1500 m elevation (<i>Rubus Hispidus</i> - FNA, 2020) • Temperate climates (<i>Burnham, 2013</i>)

Local habitat and abundance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important food source for birds and mammals (<i>Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - the University of Texas at Austin, 2019</i>)
Plant strategy type / successional stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early to establish in disturbed areas (early successional) • Trailing/creeping <i>(Burnham, 2013)</i>
Plant characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrub • Leaves last just under 1 year (<i>Rubus Hispidus - FNA, 2020</i>) • Dense bristles covering stems and petioles • Compound leaves with 3-5 serrated leaflets 2x1 to 6x4 cm in size • Stems reach up to 2.5 m (<i>Burnham, 2013</i>)
PROPAGATION DETAILS: FROM SEED	
Propagation Goal	Plants
Propagation Method	Seed
Product Type	Container (plugs)
Stock Type	4 inch square pots
Time to Grow	3-4 months
Target Specifications	Established roots, healthy branches, hardened to wind and rain.
Propagule Collection Instructions	Collect ripe dewberries in mid-late summer
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	Each berry contains 75-85 drupelets, each of which contain one seed (Sandler, 2001). Therefore, there are an average of 70 seeds per berry.
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	Mash berries to release seeds and rinse away pulp. Cold stratify seeds in damp germination media for the duration of winter (~November-April/May) (<i>Burnham, 2013</i>).
Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	Plant seeds that have overwintered in cold, damp conditions in 1" soil blocks, 1 seed per block.
Establishment Phase Details	Soilblock trays should be kept in mild warm temperatures with indirect but ample sunlight. Keep soilblocks from drying out by watering gently with mist attachment or rain.
Length of Establishment Phase	2-3 weeks
Active Growth Phase	After seedlings have 1-3 sets of true leaves, uppot to 4 inch square pots. After 1-2 weeks in these pots, plants can begin to tolerate more sunlight and accelerate growth. Take advantage of summer sunlight and begin hardening as days shorten.
Length of Active Growth Phase	~3 months

Hardening Phase	As days shorten in the end of the summer and weather becomes rainier, the seedlings may be kept outside to harden. Pay attention to sun stress; It may be too early for plants to be outside. Allow plants to harden to cooler nighttime temperatures.
Length of Hardening Phase	~1 month
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	Make sure to water seedlings before transport and ensure they won't topple.
Length of Storage	Up to 2 months. You don't want to outplant too late into the winter or roots will have a hard time establishing in colder soil.
Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	Outplant after the rainy season has begun in disturbed moist areas where the plant will receive mild sunlight. Plants flower June-September (Burnham, 2013).
INFORMATION SOURCES	
Protocol Author	Lars Penney
Date Protocol Created or Updated	05/25/2025

References

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