

## WACD PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

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### Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*)

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#### Distribution

Thimbleberry can be found growing from Alaska to California and into northern Mexico as well as east to the Great Lakes states.

#### Growth Habit

It is a low growing deciduous shrub that can be found scrambling close to the ground or growing erect from 1.5 feet to 8 feet tall. This large palmately-lobed leaved has twigs that are greenish and finely hairy. The bark can appear grayish, becoming flaky with age. Flowers are a showy white or pink; in clusters of 2-7. The stems, or canes, typically live for 2 to 3 years.

#### Adaptability

Thimbleberry can be found growing in a variety of conditions from moist to dry and wooded to open sites. It grows well on a variety of soil types and growth is rapid under favorable conditions.

#### Comments

- Fruit is a "thimble-like" aggregate of numerous hairy, red or scarlet drupelets. These drupelets are nearly dry at maturity and fall apart readily when picked.
- Birds and bear take great advantage of the fruit during summer months.
- The red luscious looking berries are edible, but not as tasty as they may look.

