

# blackberry

*Rubus spp.*

Kingdom:	Plantae
Division/Phylum:	Magnoliophyta
Class:	Magnoliopsida
Order:	Rosales
Family:	Rosaceae

## ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native



leaves

## FEATURES

Several blackberry species grow in Illinois. This arching shrub has many thorny, woody stems, each of which may be about eight feet long. Its leaves are arranged alternately along the stem and are divided into three to five leaflets. Each lance-shaped or oval leaflet is pointed at the tip, toothed, hairy and up to two and one-half inches long. Several flowers are produced in a cluster at the stem tip. The flowers have five, white petals and five, green sepals. The petals and sepals are free from each other. The fruit is a black, juicy berry with many spherical segments. Each berry may be up to one and one-fourth inches long.

## BEHAVIORS

Blackberries may be found throughout Illinois growing on roadsides, in thickets and in woods. Flowers are produced from May through June. The seeds are often dispersed by birds, who eat the fruit and pass the undigested seeds out with their waste materials.

## ILLINOIS RANGE



leaves and ripening fruit

## **Aquatic Habitats**

none

## **Woodland Habitats**

none

## **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

Edge