Native Plant of the Month

Dewberry  
*Rubus ursinus*

- Dewberry is also called trailing blackberry because it spreads low across the ground.
- Its delicious berries are a favorite of bear ("ursus"), reflected in its scientific name. Many other wildlife share in the harvest.
- It is our only native blackberry and carefully protected during restoration efforts as it is often confused with non-native blackberries. Look for leaves with three leaflets and trailing stems to help distinguish from the non-native, invasive species.
- It will form thickets in full sun or trail gracefully through the forest understory.

**Landscape Value**

Dewberry is an often naturalized addition to the native plant landscape, offering an attractive show of flowers in spring, followed by delicious berries in summer (make sure to include a variety of plants to ensure male and female plants).

Plant in full sun to full shade. If planted on a sunny slope it will create a soil binding groundcover. If planted in forest understory it will mix politely with sword fern, deer fern, Oregon grape, salal, and other forest understory plants.

Consider planting it as a groundcover in the berry patch along with evergreen huckleberry, blueberries, serviceberry, strawberry, or other native berries.

Photo by Heidi Bohan

Blue-gray to whitish trailing stems and leaves with three leaflets distinguish this from non-native blackberries.

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