

FGCU Food Forest

Plant Database

Mysore Raspberry (*Rubus neveux*)

Origin: India

Description: The fruit is rounded, when unripe, purple-black when ripe, (1.25-2 cm) in diameter, juicy and of

Uses: Food

Harvest: The Mysore raspberry tends to bloom and fruit throughout the year. If managed, the tastiest fruits are borne continuously from about

Flower: Pink or red-purple, 5-petalled flowers, 1/2 in (1.25 cm) across, occur in lax axillary and terminal

Tolerance: In Florida, 20° F (-1.67° C)

prolonged freezing weather has killed the plants to the ground or outright.



General Description: The plant is a large scrambling shrub growing 10 to 15 ft (3-4.5 m) high, with cylindrical, flexible stems downy when young, later purple, coated with a white bloom. It is thoroughly set with sharp, hooked thorns. The leaves, 4 to 8 in (10-20 cm) long, are composed of 5 to 9 elliptic-ovate leaflets 1 to 2 1/2 in (2.5-6.25 cm) long, coarsely toothed, dark-green above and, on the underside, white-hairy with small, sharp spines along the rachis, petiole and midrib. The fruit clusters may contain as many as 2 dozen or even more. The seeds are small and not

objectionable.

- **Native Origin:** The species is native to Burma and India, particularly the lower Himalayas, from Punjab to Assam, the Deccan peninsula, and the Western Ghats; and is common in the evergreen forests of Mahabaleshwar.
- **General History:** From India, the Mysore raspberry was introduced into Kenya, East Africa, and has been grown in the mountains there for many years. Seeds from Kenya were obtained by F. B. Harrington of Natal, South Africa, in 1947. In 1948, he supplied seeds to the University of Florida's Agricultural Research and Education Center, Homestead. The resulting seedlings were planted out in 1949 and fruited so well the following winter that plants were distributed to many experimenters throughout south and central Florida. By 1952, many nurseries were offering the plants for sale and had difficulty filling the demand. By 1955, a major supermarket in Lake Worth was selling the fruits by the pint. In 1955, the University of Puerto Rico received planting material from Florida and established plantings in the central-western mountains of that island. In Florida, some interest was still alive in 1965, but early enthusiasm waned as homeowners neglected their raspberry bushes, growth became too rampant, picking more and more difficult among the tangle of thorny canes, and birds competed eagerly for the crop. Many plantings were destroyed, and few remain.
- **Distribution:** Native to tropical and subtropical regions in India and Southern Asia. Mysore Raspberry is also grown in Puerto Rico, South Africa, East Africa, and Florida.
- **Season of Harvest:** The Mysore raspberry tends to bloom and fruit throughout the year but summer fruits are of poor size and quality. Therefore, the seasonal pruning has the additional purpose of preventing spring and summer flowering and allowing the first blooms to appear in December. Thus managed, the fruits are borne continuously from about February to May or June.
- **Culinary Uses:** The fruits are enjoyed fresh, alone or served with sugar and cream or ice cream. They are excellent for making pie, tarts, jam, and jelly. The fresh fruits can be quick-frozen for future use.

Mysore Raspberry
Scientific Classification

Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(unranked):	Rosids
Order:	Rosales
Family:	Rosaceae
Genus:	<i>Rubus</i>
Species:	<i>R. Niveus</i>

Sources:

http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/morton/mysore_raspberry.html

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