Wild Berry Identification Chart

30 berries with a photo, the one feature that separates each, and its size. Free to reuse with a link to orvik.app/tools/wild-berry-identifier/

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> Never eat a wild berry on the strength of a web page



Blackberry

Rubus fruticosus and allies

An aggregate of glossy black beads that keeps its white core when picked, on an arching thorny cane with palmate…

`Size: Fruit 1–2.5 cm`



Raspberry and black raspberry

Rubus idaeus, R. occidentalis

The same beaded aggregate as a blackberry but it pulls off the core hollow, like a thimble

`Size: Fruit 1–2 cm`



Wild strawberry

Fragaria vesca, F. virginiana

A miniature strawberry with seeds on the outside, on a low plant with three toothed leaflets and white five-petalled…

`Size: Fruit 1–2 cm`



Blueberry and huckleberry

Vaccinium species

Round blue fruit with a waxy bloom and a distinct five-pointed crown at the far end, on a twiggy shrub with small…

`Size: Fruit 5–12 mm`



Elderberry

Sambucus canadensis, S. nigra

HANDLE WITH CARE

Enormous flat-topped clusters of tiny purple-black berries on red-purple stalks, over compound leaves of five to…

`Size: Fruit 4–6 mm, clusters 15–25 cm across`



Serviceberry

Amelanchier species

Small purple pomes ripening from red, each with a five-pointed crown like a blueberry, on a small tree with smooth…

`Size: Fruit 6–10 mm`



Mulberry

Morus species

HANDLE WITH CARE

A long beaded aggregate like a stretched blackberry, on a tree whose leaves come in three shapes — plain, mitten and…

`Size: Fruit 2–3 cm`



Wild grape

Vitis species

HANDLE WITH CARE

Hanging bunches of round dark fruit on a woody climber with forked tendrils, shredding bark and large lobed leaves

`Size: Fruit 6–15 mm`



Canada moonseed

Menispermum canadense

CAN INJURE YOU

A grape mimic: dark bunches on a twining vine, but with no tendrils, leaves whose stalk attaches inside the blade…

`Size: Fruit 8–10 mm`



Pokeweed

Phytolacca americana

CAN INJURE YOU

A tall soft herb to three metres with a smooth magenta stem, big alternate simple leaves, and hanging spikes of…

`Size: Fruit 8–12 mm on spikes 10–20 cm`



Deadly nightshade

Atropa belladonna

CAN INJURE YOU

Single glossy black berries the size of a cherry, each sitting in a green five-pointed star of sepals, on a bushy…

`Size: Fruit 15–20 mm`



Black nightshade

Solanum nigrum and allies

CAN INJURE YOU

Small drooping clusters of dull black berries on a low branching weed with white star-shaped flowers and a protruding…

`Size: Fruit 6–10 mm`



Bittersweet nightshade

Solanum dulcamara

CAN INJURE YOU

Clusters of translucent egg-shaped red berries on a scrambling vine with purple flowers whose reflexed petals expose…

`Size: Fruit 8–12 mm`



White baneberry

Actaea pachypoda

CAN INJURE YOU

Porcelain-white berries each with a single black dot, on thick bright red stalks — the plant is called doll's eyes…

`Size: Fruit 8–10 mm`



Red baneberry

Actaea rubra

CAN INJURE YOU

Glossy scarlet berries in a tight cluster on slender green stalks, over large twice-divided toothed leaves

`Size: Fruit 8–10 mm`

16

No open-licence photo that passed review

Holly

Ilex species

CAN INJURE YOU

Bright red berries clustered along the twig of an evergreen with glossy spiny-edged leaves

Size: Fruit 6–10 mm

17

No open-licence photo that passed review

Yew

Taxus species

CAN INJURE YOU

A soft scarlet cup open at the end with a single dark seed visible inside, on a dark evergreen with flat needles in…

Size: Aril 8–12 mm

18



Virginia creeper

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

CAN INJURE YOU

Small blue-black berries on bright red stalks on a climber with five leaflets radiating from one point, turning…

Size: Fruit 5–8 mm

19



Honeysuckle

Lonicera species

HANDLE WITH CARE

Translucent red or orange berries in pairs at the leaf joints of a vine or twiggy shrub with opposite leaves and…

Size: Fruit 5–10 mm

20



Hawthorn

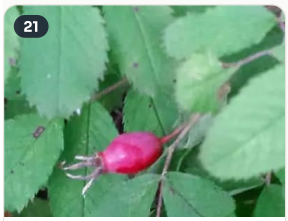
Crataegus species

HANDLE WITH CARE

Clusters of small red pomes with a crown at the end, on a thorny tree with lobed toothed leaves

Size: Fruit 8–15 mm

21



Rose hip

Rosa species

HANDLE WITH CARE

A firm orange-red urn with dried sepals still attached at the tip, on a thorny shrub with pinnate leaves

Size: Fruit 1–3 cm

22



Chokecherry

Prunus virginiana

HANDLE WITH CARE

Long hanging spikes of small dark cherries, each with a single round stone, on a small tree with oval finely toothed…

Size: Fruit 6–10 mm

23



Juniper

Juniperus communis

HANDLE WITH CARE

Hard blue-black berry-like cones with a waxy bloom and a three-part seam at the tip, on a prickly evergreen with…

Size: Cone 6–9 mm

24



Cranberry and lingonberry

Vaccinium macrocarpon, V. vitis-idaea

Firm sour red berries on a low creeping evergreen mat with tiny leathery leaves, in acid bog or heath

Size: Fruit 8–20 mm

25



Wintergreen

Gaultheria procumbens

A single mealy red berry under a low evergreen plant with thick glossy oval leaves that smell unmistakably of…

Size: Fruit 8–12 mm

26



Partridgeberry

Mitchella repens

A red berry with two dimples at the end — it forms from two fused flowers — on a trailing evergreen mat with small…

Size: Fruit 6–8 mm

27



Jack-in-the-pulpit

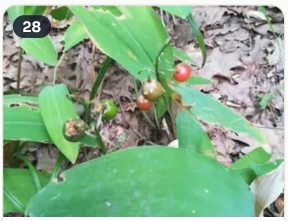
Arisaema triphyllum

CAN INJURE YOU

A tight club of glossy scarlet berries on a bare stalk in late summer, where the hooded pulpit flower was in spring

Size: Cluster 3–6 cm

28



Lily of the valley

Convallaria majalis

CAN INJURE YOU

Orange-red berries on an arching stem over two broad basal leaves, in the shady spot where white bells hung in spring

Size: Fruit 6–12 mm

29



Sumac

Rhus typhina, R. glabra

HANDLE WITH CARE

An upright fuzzy crimson cone of tiny hairy fruit at the tip of a branch, over long compound leaves

Size: Cone-shaped cluster 10–20 cm

30



Snowberry

Symphoricarpos albus

CAN INJURE YOU

Clusters of soft, matt, pure white berries that persist on a bare twiggy shrub through winter, popping when squeezed

Size: Fruit 1–1.5 cm

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