

# Discover the Flora of Our Campus

## Raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*)

Raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) is a perennial shrub belonging to the rose family (*Rosaceae*). This plant has semi-woody stems and produces new shoots every year. Its height usually ranges from 1 to 2.5 meters. The stems are thin, thorny, and flexible. The leaves are compound, usually consisting of 3–5 leaflets with serrated edges. The flowers are small and white, later developing into berry-type fruits. The fruit is red, sometimes yellow or black, and consists of many small drupelets.

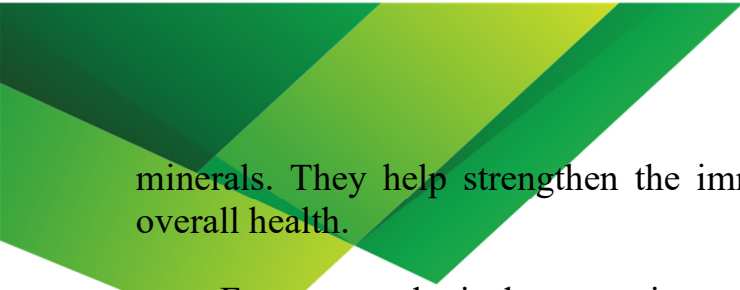
*Rubus idaeus* is naturally distributed mainly in the forested and mountainous regions of Europe and Northern Asia. Later, it was cultivated by humans and spread to many temperate regions around the world. In Azerbaijan, it is found wild especially in mountain-forest areas and is also widely grown in gardens.

Raspberry prefers cool and humid climates. It grows well in sunny and partially shaded areas. It is more productive in humus-rich, moist, and well-drained soils. The



plant is moderately resistant to drought, but water deficiency reduces the quality of the fruit. Since it produces new shoots every year, it has a continuous rejuvenation characteristic.

Raspberry is a highly valuable fruit plant in human nutrition. Its fruits are rich in vitamin C, antioxidants, and



minerals. They help strengthen the immune system and contribute positively to overall health.

From an ecological perspective, raspberry bushes provide food for birds and other animals in forest ecosystems. Their flowers supply nectar for bees and support pollination. They also help keep the soil covered, partially preventing erosion.

*Rubus idaeus* is mainly used in the food industry. It is widely consumed as fresh fruit and used in making jams, juices, ice cream, and desserts. It is also preserved in dried and frozen forms.

In traditional medicine, raspberry leaves and fruits have been used as remedies against colds, fever, and inflammation. In the cosmetics industry, raspberries are included in antioxidant-rich products.

One of the most interesting features of raspberries is that the fruit is composed of many small drupelets, each containing its own seed. This distinguishes it from many other berries.

Another interesting fact is that raspberries can grow equally well both wild in forests and cultivated in gardens, which is why they are such a widespread fruit plant.

Overall, *Rubus idaeus* is a highly valuable fruit shrub because of its nutritional value, ecological role, and economic importance.

