



Washington Association Of Conservation Districts

**PLANT MATERIAL CENTER**

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**Thimbleberry**  
***Rubus parviflorus***

**Distribution:** Alaska to California and into northern Mexico; east to the Great Lakes States.

**Growth Habit:** Thimbleberry can be found growing in a variety of moist to dry and wooded to open sites. It is a low growing deciduous shrub that can be found scrambling close to the ground or growing erect from 1.5 feet to 8 feet tall. This large palmately-lobed leaved shrub grows well on a variety of barren infertile soil types. Twigs are greenish and finely hairy and bark can appear greyish, becoming flaky or shreddy with age. Flowers showy white or, rarely, pink; in clusters of 2-7. The stems, or canes, typically live for 2 to 3 years. Growth is rapid under favorable growing conditions and the stems or canes typically live for 2 to 3 years.



**Comments:** Fruit a "thimblelike" aggregate of numerous hairy, red or scarlet drupelets. These drupelets are nearly dry at maturity and fall apart readily when picked. Birds take great advantage of the fruit during summer months feeding on them every chance they get.

