

Rubus parvifolius

Common name – Native Raspberry

"Rubus" - Latin for bramble or blackberry & "parvi" meaning small and "folius" meaning leaf.

Rubus parvifolius, commonly known as Native Raspberry or Small-leaf Bramble, is a flowering plant in the rose family. It is native to Australia, particularly found in eastern parts of the country.

It is a scrambling shrub or vine that typically grows up to 1-2 meters high. It often forms dense thickets or patches in its natural habitat. The shrub prefers moist well-drained soil and semi-shade and is very hardy and drought tolerant.

Leaves

The leaves of *Rubus parvifolius* are small and compound, typically consisting of 3 to 5 leaflets 1-4cm by 1-3.5cm. The leaflets are egg shaped, with serrated edges. Overall, the leaves are attractive, dark green and glossy. They are wrinkled and toothed or deeply lobed with a soft velvety feel underside. The stems of are typically armed with sharp, hooked prickles/thorns. These prickles aid the plant in climbing and provide defence against being eaten.



Flowers and Berries

The Native Raspberry produces small, white to pale pink flowers in clusters from September through to February. The flowers have five petals and appear in late spring to early summer, attracting pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

One of the most distinctive features of the Native Raspberry is its edible fruit, which looks like a raspberry. The fruits are typically red when ripe, though they can also be yellow or orange, depending on the variety. They are 10 – 12mm across, juicy and sweet, and taste like raspberries.



Uses

Rubus parvifolius plays an important ecological role as a food source for various birds, mammals and humans. The dense growth habit of the plant also provides cover and habitat for wildlife. It is sometimes cultivated as a garden plant for its edible fruits and attractive foliage, but it can also become invasive in some areas if not properly managed.

In addition to its ecological significance, *Rubus parvifolius* is culturally important to Indigenous Australian communities, who have traditionally used the plant for food and medicinal tea, produced from the leaves, and used to treat diarrhoea.