

# Cherokee Ethnobiology

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Ka nu ga tli



## BLACKBERRY

### Cherokee Usage

Blackberry has been used as a food for many generations by Cherokees. The berries, when ripe, turn from a very deep purple to nearly black and are very sweet. When not eaten raw, people mainly use blackberry for baking pies and cobblers, but they can also be used for baking other foods, put into cereal, and squeezed for the sweet juice. Many birds and other wildlife love blackberry as well. Blackberry plants have also been used in medicine.

### Description

A short, perennial vining shrub, 4-6 feet in height. The fruit are actually multiple fruit, which is why it contains a seed in each little round fruit. The stems contain many sharp thorns that can easily cause the skin to bleed when picking the berries, if not careful. The thorns can also break off and stick into you clothing.

**Where found:** Blackberry can be found growing just about anywhere in this region. streams, wetlands, rivers or lakes.

**Other names:** Sawtooth blackberry

**Taxonomy:**

- Kingdom - Plantae
- Phylum - Magnoliophyta
- Class - Magnoliopsida
- Order – Rosales
- Family – Rosaceae
- Genus – *Rubus*
- Species – *fruticosu*

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