

State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*RUBUS ACAULIS*  
NAGOONBERRY  
Family: Rosaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: Sensitive in USFS Region 2.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (Low  
Conservation Priority)

Description: *Rubus acaulis* is a low, rhizomatous, perennial herb with non-bristly/prickly stems to 15 cm high. The leaves are divided into three ovate to obovate leaflets with serrated margins. Flowers are usually solitary and have dark pink or rose-purple petals 10-15 mm long. Fruits are red, globose raspberries (Fertig et al. 1994, Hitchcock and Cronquist 1961).

Synonyms: *Rubus arcticus* ssp. *acaulis*,  
*Cylactis arctica* ssp. *acaulis*.

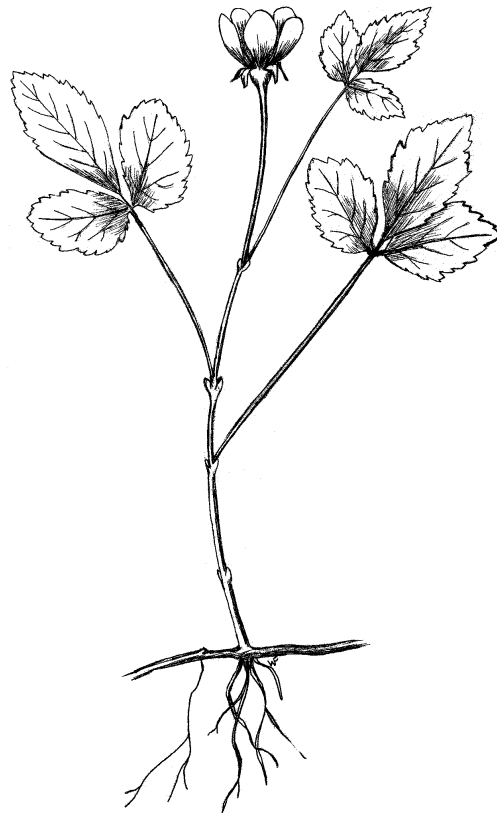
Similar Species: *Rubus pubescens* has smaller, white-petaled flowers and sharp-tipped leaflets. *Fragaria* ssp. have white flowers and 5 sepals and 5 sepal-like bracts. Small, vegetative individuals of *Geum macrophyllum* have pinnately compound leaves with 5 or more leaflets (terminal leaflet largest).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Mid June-July.

Distribution: Alaska to Newfoundland south to British Columbia and Minnesota, and in the Rocky Mountains from Montana to Colorado. In Wyoming, known from the east slope of



Above and below: *Rubus acaulis* by Walter Fertig.



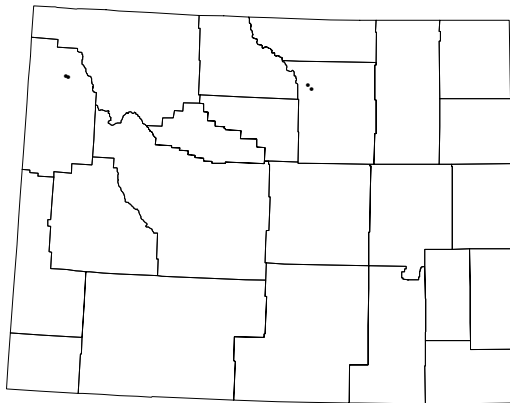
the Bighorn Mountains (Johnson Co.) and Yellowstone Plateau (Teton County).

Habitat: In understory of moderate to dense canopy cover in spruce, spruce/willow, and

occasionally willow dominated communities.(Boggy woods and marshes, mountain meadows, and alpine tundra at 7000-9000 feet).

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 3 extant records (all observed since 1995) and 1 vague historical report in Wyoming.

Abundance: The Bighorn Range population contained hundreds of thousands of stems (representing an unknown number of genetically distinct individuals, due to the plants clonal nature) within a small geographic area in 1999. Reported as "relatively abundant" at one site in Yellowstone National Park by J. Whipple.



Wyoming distribution of *R. acaulis*.

Trends: Probably stable.

Protection status: One occurrence is protected within Yellowstone NP. Populations in the Bighorn Range are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: May be impacted by reservoir development in Bighorns, logging, grazing, and high recreation use.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Bighorn National Forest and Yellowstone National Park.

#### References:

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Wyoming Natural Diversity Database,  
Laramie, WY.

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Updated: 00-06-16