



Olympic National Forest

## Wild Berries

**General Information:** On Olympic National Forest, berry picking season begins in July and extends through September. There are many different wild berries growing on the Forest. The following list describes those that are commonly picked for eating.

**Huckleberries** - Both red and blue huckleberries are among the most popular wild fruit on the Peninsula. Various species are found from low wet forests to the alpine slopes of the Olympic Mountains. The berries ripen first at lower elevations. Peak months are August and September. Look for them on relatively open forestland and on cutover timberlands and burned areas.

**Blackberries** - The Himalayan, a large seedy fruit, is the most abundant berry; the Evergreen blackberry is much smaller and more difficult to find. Blackberries begin to fruit in June and will continue through September. They are found in wooded areas, but most often are found along roads, railroad tracks, in vacant lots, cutover forests and by the sides of streams.

**Blue Elderberries** - Red and blue elderberries are quite common on the Olympic Peninsula; however, only the blue should be eaten. Blue elderberries ripen from late July through September. Generally found along roads and cutover areas.

**Salal Berries** - Salal berries are abundant, easy to pick, but often ignored. The berries ripen from mid-July through mid-September. Look for them in wooded areas. They are ideal for jellies.

### **Other less commonly picked berries:**

**Oregon Grape** - Best mixed with other berry jellies; should not be eaten fresh because of a laxative effect.

**Wild Strawberries** - Small, sweet berries with good flavor. Grows along roads and in cutover areas.

**Black Caps and Raspberries** - A red or black small-seeded berry. Grows in areas similar to blackberries.

**Salmonberry** - A yellow or reddish, mushy berry about the size of a raspberry. They are one of the earliest berries to ripen (May-June).

*\*Never consume any wild berries you have not positively identified as non-poisonous.*

**Equipment Checklist:** Prepare for a safe and efficient trip by carrying the following: 1) Extra food, water and clothing 2) Compass and map of the area 3) Whistle 4) Field guide for plants and 5) Bag or bucket to carry berries.

**Collection for Personal Use:** Personal use is free and permissible. Please contact any of the Olympic National Forest offices with any questions.

**Commercial Use Permits:** Commercial use of wild berries is not permitted.

**Additional Regulations:** Harvesting rare, threatened or endangered plants is illegal. Harvesting is prohibited in National Forest designated Wilderness, botanical, and natural research areas. Contact the nearest Forest Service office for additional information.

### **Safety Recommendations:**

1. Wear orange vests or other garments to increase your visibility to hunters and other forest visitors.
2. Know the conditions of your permit, including the permissible harvest locations and other relevant boundaries.
3. In case of an emergency dial 911! Notify them of your situation and location, including the road number.
4. Be careful of large trucks and other vehicles when travelling on logging roads. Always use your headlights and ask a forest district office where active logging is occurring.
5. If you have safety concerns or questions, contact a U.S. Forest Service office.

### **Olympic National Forest Offices:**

**Supervisors Office, Olympia-** 360-956-2402

**Quilcene Office-** 360-765-2200

**Forks Office-** 360-374-6522

**Quinault Office-** 360-288-2525