



Wedgewood Wildlife Sanctuary Fairbanks Alaska

What Berries are Growing Along the Trail?

Dwarf Dogwood

The bright orange berries growing in a single cluster on the plants with six flat leaves are Dwarf Dogwood, also called bunchberry. They are sometimes used as fillers along with other berries in pies and jams. Please leave these for the birds to eat.

Lingonberries - Lowbush Cranberry

Lingonberries, also known locally as lowbush cranberry, are the bright or dark red berries growing on the short plants with small leaves. They are a favorite among Fairbanks berry pickers, who use them in baked goods, jams, sauces and liquers. They are quite tart and are usually cooked and sweetened before being eaten. Best to pick after the first frost.

Pumpkinberry - Timberberry - False Toadflax

The Pumpkinberry (also called Timberberry or False Toadflax) is also edible, but most people only eat one! Not a local favorite...

Crowberries

Crowberries are black and grow on short, evergreen plants with needle-like leaves. They are edible but not a popular berry for harvesting, as most people feel they are best when combined with other berries in jams and jellies.

Bog Blueberry

The Bog Blueberry is a local favorite, but productive patches are closely guarded secrets. There are a few blueberry bushes along the Taiga Trail. If you find one, feel free to sample a berry, but please leave the rest for others to try. You can buy blueberry jams and syrups at many local gift shops.

Cloudberry - Salmonberry - Baked Apple Berry

The Cloudberry is edible and commonly made into jams. Since so few grow at the sanctuary, we prefer that they not be picked so other visitors can see them.

Alpine Bearberry - Kinnikinnick

As the name implies, bears love to eat Alpine Bearberry, also known as kinnikinnick. The leaves are sometimes used in herbal medicine. The berries are relatively safe to eat if you aren't pregnant, but large doses can cause nausea and vomiting. Best to avoid them.

Soapberry

Another aptly named berry, soapberries are bitter and soapy to the touch. But, they are edible. Bears love them, and Native Alaskans whip soapberries into tasty treats. They are small and grow on spreading bushes around Wander Lake. We prefer to leave them for the birds to eat.



Dwarf Dogwood



Lowbush Cranberry



Crowberry



Blueberry



Salmonberry



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What Berries are Growing Along the Trail?

American Red Raspberry

American red raspberry grows in tangled thickets on bristly canes 2 to 4 feet high. The delicious berries ripen in July through the end of August. A ripe raspberry is bright red and easily separates from the stem. You may pick them here but please be careful not to trample other vegetation.

Highbush Cranberry

Highbush cranberries grow on shrubs whose leaves turn red in the fall. The fruit should be picked before the first frost and just before its true ripe stage, as the fruit is more acidic then and has a better flavor. Highbush cranberries (which are not true cranberries) have a musty flavor and odor and a large seed.

American Red Current - Northern Black Current

Both American red currants and northern black currants have been found along the sanctuary trails. The berries are clustered on a small branch just below the lobed, toothed leaves. Northern black currants are very sour and slightly bitter. Red currants are sometimes made into jams and jellies, syrups, pies and cobblers.

Baneberry

Take heed from the baneberry's name, as it is very toxic to humans! Although not common in the woods along the Taiga Trail, baneberry could be mistaken for highbush cranberry or red currant. The berries, which can be either red or white, are clustered on a long stem, like a pincushion.



Raspberry



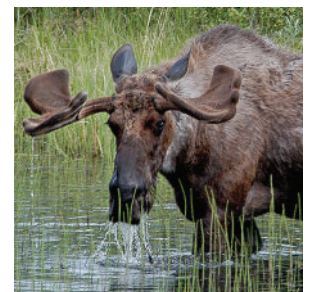
Highbush Cranberry



Baneberry



Alpine Bearberry



Bull Moose