Taxon: Rubus 'Arapaho' **Family:** Rosaceae

Common Name(s): Arapaho blackberry
blackberry 'Arapaho'

Synonym(s): Rubus fruticosus 'Arapaho'

Assessor: Chuck Chimera **Status:** Approved **End Date:** 19 Feb 2026

WRA Score: 4.0 **Designation:** EVALUATE **Rating:** Evaluate

Keywords: Thornless, Cultivar, Not Naturalized, Fleshy-Fruited, Suckering

Qsn #	Question	Answer Option	Answer
101	Is the species highly domesticated?	y = -3, n = 0	n
102	Has the species become naturalized where grown?		
103	Does the species have weedy races?		
201	Species suited to tropical or subtropical climate(s) - If island is primarily wet habitat, then substitute "wet tropical" for "tropical or subtropical"	0 = low, 1 = intermediate, 2 = high (see Appendix 2)	Intermediate
202	Quality of climate match data	0 = low, 1 = intermediate, 2 = high (see Appendix 2)	Low
203	Broad climate suitability (environmental versatility)	y = 1, n = 0	y
204	Native or naturalized in regions with tropical or subtropical climates	y = 1, n = 0	n
205	Does the species have a history of repeated introductions outside its natural range?	y= -2, ? = -1, n = 0	y
301	Naturalized beyond native range	y = 1*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = question 205	n
302	Garden/amenity/disturbance weed	y = 1*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = 0	n
303	Agricultural/forestry/horticultural weed	y = 2*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = 0	n
304	Environmental weed	y = 2*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = 0	n
305	Congeneric weed	y = 1*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = 0	y
401	Produces spines, thorns or burrs	y = 1, n = 0	n
402	Allelopathic		
403	Parasitic	y = 1, n = 0	n
404	Unpalatable to grazing animals	y = 1, n = -1	n
405	Toxic to animals	y = 1, n = 0	n
406	Host for recognized pests and pathogens		
407	Causes allergies or is otherwise toxic to humans	y = 1, n = 0	n
408	Creates a fire hazard in natural ecosystems		
409	Is a shade tolerant plant at some stage of its life cycle		
410	Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions (or limestone conditions if not a volcanic island)	y = 1, n = 0	y

Qsn #	Question	Answer Option	Answer
411	Climbing or smothering growth habit	y = 1, n = 0	n
412	Forms dense thickets		
501	Aquatic	y = 5, n = 0	n
502	Grass	y = 1, n = 0	n
503	Nitrogen fixing woody plant	y = 1, n = 0	n
504	Geophyte (herbaceous with underground storage organs -- bulbs, corms, or tubers)	y = 1, n = 0	n
601	Evidence of substantial reproductive failure in native habitat	y = 1, n = 0	n
602	Produces viable seed	y = 1, n = -1	y
603	Hybridizes naturally		
604	Self-compatible or apomictic	y = 1, n = -1	y
605	Requires specialist pollinators	y = -1, n = 0	n
606	Reproduction by vegetative fragmentation	y = 1, n = -1	y
607	Minimum generative time (years)	1 year = 1, 2 or 3 years = 0, 4+ years = -1	2
701	Propagules likely to be dispersed unintentionally (plants growing in heavily trafficked areas)		
702	Propagules dispersed intentionally by people	y = 1, n = -1	y
703	Propagules likely to disperse as a produce contaminant		
704	Propagules adapted to wind dispersal	y = 1, n = -1	n
705	Propagules water dispersed	y = 1, n = -1	n
706	Propagules bird dispersed	y = 1, n = -1	y
707	Propagules dispersed by other animals (externally)	y = 1, n = -1	n
708	Propagules survive passage through the gut	y = 1, n = -1	y
801	Prolific seed production (>1000/m2)		
802	Evidence that a persistent propagule bank is formed (>1 yr)		
803	Well controlled by herbicides	y = -1, n = 1	y
804	Tolerates, or benefits from, mutilation, cultivation, or fire	y = 1, n = -1	y
805	Effective natural enemies present locally (e.g. introduced biocontrol agents)		

Supporting Data:

Qsn #	Question	Answer
101	**Is the species highly domesticated?**	**n**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Moore, J. N. & Clark, J. R. (1993). `Arapaho' Erect, Thornless Blackberry. HortScience, 28(8), 861-862	[A cultivar, but no evidence of modification to the extent of extreme domestication] "'Arapaho', tested as Ark. 1536, resulted from a cross of Ark. 631 × Ark. 883 made in 1982 (Fig. 1). Both parents of 'Arapaho' are thorny but are heterozygous for recessive genes for thornlessness. These genes were obtained from the British cultivar Merton Thornless via 'Thornfree' (Scott et al., 1957). The erect growth habit of 'Arapaho' was contributed by the erect, thorny cultivars Darrow, Hillquist, and Cherokee. All cultivars and selections listed in the 'Arapaho' pedigree are tetraploids. The original 'Arapaho' plant was selected from a seedling field in 1985. It has been tested at three locations in Arkansas and distributed for tests at several other state experiment stations."

102	**Has the species become naturalized where grown?**	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	NA

103	**Does the species have weedy races?**	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	NA

201	**Species suited to tropical or subtropical climate(s) - If island is primarily wet habitat, then substitute "wet tropical" for "tropical or subtropical"**	**Intermediate**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Himelrick, D. G., & Nesbitt, M. (2001, July). Thornless blackberry performance on the gulf coast of Alabama. Acta Horticulturae 585, 625-627	"A blackberry cultivar trial was planted in 1999 at the Gulf Coast Regional Research and Extension Center in Fairhope, Alabama, USA to study yield and quality traits. The location receives on average only 640 chilling hours and has high rainfall and high humidity. The six cultivars planted were 'Navaho', 'Arapaho', 'Apache', 'Loch Ness', 'Triple Crown', and 'Chester'. Plants were set out in March 1999, except for 'Apache', which was planted in September. Primocane growth was greatest in 1999 on 'Triple Crown' and 'Chester', both of which had a trailing growth habit. These two cultivars also leafed out and bloomed sporadically in 2000, as if suffering from lack of chilling. 'Loch Ness', a semi-erect cultivar, was the least vigorous cultivar, and had slightly insufficient chilling. 'Arapaho' and 'Navaho' made vigorous growth and appeared to have sufficient chilling. The cultivar with the best tasting fruit was 'Triple Crown', whose crop peaked in mid July. Yield of 'Triple Crown' however was extremely low, due to insufficient chilling. Berries on 'Triple Crown' were difficult to locate, due to excessive primocane growth, and berries became overripe very quickly. 'Arapaho' was the earliest maturing cultivar, and had good flavor and good yields. The other three cultivars produced berries that were very acidic (tart) and not very appealing. The yield of 'Arapaho' and 'Navaho' were encouraging in 2000 and 2001, but further study is needed to fully determine which, if any are suited to the Gulf Coast. A few plants with rust were removed to prevent further spread of the disease."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
202	Quality of climate match data	Low
	Source(s)	Notes
	Himelrick, D. G., & Nesbitt, M. (2001, July). Thornless blackberry performance on the gulf coast of Alabama. Acta Horticulturae 585, 625-627	"The yield of 'Arapaho' and 'Navaho' were encouraging in 2000 and 2001, but further study is needed to fully determine which, if any are suited to the Gulf Coast."

203	Broad climate suitability (environmental versatility)	y
	Source(s)	Notes
	Gardenia. (2026). Rubus fruticosus 'Arapaho' (Blackberry). https://www.gardenia.net/plant/rubus-fruticosus-arapaho. [Accessed 18 Feb 2026]	"Hardiness 4 - 9" [Grows in 6 hardiness zones]
	Moore, J. N. (1993). Blackberry plant named 'Arapaho' (U.S. Patent No. PP8,510). U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	"Test plantings over a wide geographic area have shown this new variety to be adapted to differing soil and climatic conditions. It has performed well in tests in the Southeast United States but is not cold hardy in northern states."

204	Native or naturalized in regions with tropical or subtropical climates	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Arapaho blackberry can be grown in warmer climates (including parts of subtropical zones) when cultivated. There are no documented cases of it being naturalized in tropical or subtropical ecosystems (self-establishing beyond gardens) in the scientific literature.

205	Does the species have a history of repeated introductions outside its natural range?	y
	Source(s)	Notes
	Moore, J. N. (1993). Blackberry plant named 'Arapaho' (U.S. Patent No. PP8,510). U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	"Test plantings over a wide geographic area have shown this new variety to be adapted to differing soil and climatic conditions. It has performed well in tests in the Southeast United States but is not cold hardy in northern states." [Arapaho was introduced to many test sites and cultivation environments as part of breeding trials and commercial evaluations across several U.S. states prior to and following its 1993 release.]
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Arapaho blackberry (Rubus 'Arapaho') has been widely cultivated in the United States since its release in 1993, particularly in the Southeast and other regions suited to erect, thornless blackberry production.

301	Naturalized beyond native range	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	No evidence
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	There are no documented records of Arapaho blackberry (Rubus 'Arapaho') being naturalized anywhere in the world.

302	Garden/amenity/disturbance weed	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	No evidence

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	There is no evidence that ‘Arapaho’ is naturalized or invasive anywhere to date.

303	Agricultural/forestry/horticultural weed	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	No evidence
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	There is no evidence that ‘Arapaho’ is naturalized or invasive anywhere to date.

304	Environmental weed	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	No evidence
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	There is no evidence that ‘Arapaho’ is naturalized or invasive anywhere to date.

305	Congeneric weed	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Rentería, J. L., Gardener, M. R., Panetta, F. D., Atkinson, R., & Crawley, M. J. (2012). Possible impacts of the invasive plant Rubus niveus on the native vegetation of the Scalesia forest in the Galapagos Islands. PLoS One, 7(10), e48106	"Seventy nine species of Rubus are known to be a problem in at least one country in the world [26,27,28]. There is anecdotal and quantitative evidence that these species have negative long term impacts on natural ecosystems, preventing the regeneration of native species [29,30,31], due to high competitive abilities for resources (such as water, nutrients, space and light), high growth rate, rapid maturity and multiple modes of reproduction [26,28]. For example, the dense canopy produced by R. fruticosus excludes light from the soil surface, effectively dominating other species in the ground stratum [27]. In the early stages of invasion Rubus spp. will grow over, or occupy gaps within native vegetation and in later stages they can severely restrict regeneration in native forests [26,27,32,33]."

401	Produces spines, thorns or burrs	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Moore, J. N. & Clark, J. R. (1993). `Arapaho' Erect, Thornless Blackberry. HortScience, 28(8), 861-862	"‘Arapaho’ is early ripening, erect, thornless, and quickly establishes a full fruiting row."

402	Allelopathic	
	Source(s)	**Notes**

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Coté, J. F., & Thibault, J. R. (1988). Allelopathic potential of raspberry foliar leachates on growth of ectomycorrhizal fungi associated with black spruce. American Journal of Botany, 75(7), 966-970	[Unknown] "In vitro bioassays on seven species of ectomycorrhizal fungi associated with black spruce (Picea mariana (Mill.) BSP) were tested under allelopathic action of raspberry (Rubus idaeus L.). Radial growth inhibitions were observed when fungi were confronted with increasing concentrations (0%/0.I% 0.5%/o2.5%) of foliar leachates made from May, July, and September material (1986). For the 2.5% treatments, species Paxillus involutus, Laccaria proxima, Laccaria bicolor, Thelephora terrestris and Cortinarius pseudonapus grew only 6, 8, 32, 42, and 46% of their control, whereas Hebeloma cylindrosporum and Cenococcum geophilum were stimulated. Tree seedlings from raspberry invaded plantation showed mycorrhizal infection rate over 75%, with fine roots mainly colonized by C. geophilum. In combination with efforts of tree improvement and based on the results of this study, it seems important to select a well-adapted mycorrhizae, when interference by raspberry is involved." [Some Rubus species can exhibit allelopathic properties, but no information exists for Rubus 'Arapaho']

403	Parasitic	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Rubus [Genus is not parasitic]

404	Unpalatable to grazing animals	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Parsons, W.T. & Cuthbertson, E.G. (2001). Noxious Weeds of Australia. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia	"Blackberry is not readily eaten by sheep and cattle but is consumed by goats and deer. Sheep can become entangled in thickets and die of thirst and hunger." [Other Rubus species are consumed by browsing animals. Presumably thornless ‘Arapaho’ would be palatable, and browsed]
	Weber, E. (2017). Invasive Plant Species of the World, 2nd Edition: A Reference Guide to Environmental Weeds. CABI Publishing, Wallingford, UK	"Grazing by goats proved to be effective as well." [Rubus fruticosus browsed by goats. ‘Arapaho’, a thornless, cultivar, would presumably be browsed as well]

405	Toxic to animals	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Parsons, W.T. & Cuthbertson, E.G. (2001). Noxious Weeds of Australia. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia	[No evidence of toxicity in related species] "Blackberry is not readily eaten by sheep and cattle but is consumed by goats and deer. "
	Wagstaff, D.J. (2008). International poisonous plants checklist: an evidence-based reference. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL	No evidence
	Quattrocchi, U. (2012). CRC World Dictionary of Medicinal and Poisonous Plants: Common Names, Scientific Names, Eponyms, Synonyms, and Etymology. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL	No known toxicity

Qsn #	Question	Answer
406	Host for recognized pests and pathogens	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Moore, J. N. (1993). Blackberry plant named 'Arapaho' (U.S. Patent No. PP8,510). U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	"Disease resistance.-Moderate to anthracnose; immune to orange rust."
	Gardenia. (2026). Rubus fruticosus 'Arapaho' (Blackberry). https://www.gardenia.net/plant/rubus-fruticosus-arapaho. [Accessed 19 Feb 2026]	"Good disease resistance. Can get aphids, leafhoppers, raspberry beetle and gall mites"

407	Causes allergies or is otherwise toxic to humans	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Moore, J. N. & Clark, J. R. (1993). `Arapaho' Erect, Thornless Blackberry. HortScience, 28(8), 861-862	"'Arapaho' is early ripening, erect, thornless, and quickly establishes a full fruiting row. It is expected to complement 'Navaho' and expand the harvest period for high-quality thornless blackberries." Commercial cultivar created for human consumption with no reported evidence of toxic or allergenic effects]
	Quattrocchi, U. (2012). CRC World Dictionary of Medicinal and Poisonous Plants: Common Names, Scientific Names, Eponyms, Synonyms, and Etymology. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL	No evidence

408	Creates a fire hazard in natural ecosystems	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Parsons, W.T. & Cuthbertson, E.G. (2001). Noxious Weeds of Australia. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia	"Large clumps of blackberry are a considerable fire hazard, particularly around farm buildings and along fence lines." [Invasive Rubus fruticosus may become a fire hazard. As a commercial cultivar, flammability and fire risk of Arapaho blackberry is unknown]

409	Is a shade tolerant plant at some stage of its life cycle	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Gardenia. (2026). Rubus fruticosus 'Arapaho' (Blackberry). https://www.gardenia.net/plant/rubus-fruticosus-arapaho. [Accessed 19 Feb 2026]	"A full sun to part shade lover, this plant is best grown in organically rich, slightly acidic, moist but well-drained soils. Blackberries dislike waterlogged soils. For best results, plant in a sheltered, sunny position. Will tolerate light shade, but the plant yields better and is more healthy when sited in full sun."
	Shrub Hub. (2026). Arapaho Thornless Blackberry. https://www.shrubhub.com/Shop-Plants/Blackberry-Bushes/Arapaho-Thornless-Blackberry/14511. [Accessed 19 Feb 2026]	"The Arapaho Thornless Blackberry requires full sunlight exposure to grow and produce abundant fruit."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
410	Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions (or limestone conditions if not a volcanic island)	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Gardenia. (2026). Rubus fruticosus 'Arapaho' (Blackberry). https://www.gardenia.net/plant/rubus-fruticosus-arapaho. [Accessed 18 Feb 2026]	"Soil Type Clay, Loam, Sand Soil pH Acid, Neutral Soil Drainage Moist but Well-Drained, Well-Drained"
	Moore, J. N. (1993). Blackberry plant named 'Arapaho' (U.S. Patent No. PP8,510). U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	"Test plantings over a wide geographic area have shown this new variety to be adapted to differing soil and climatic conditions. It has performed well in tests in the Southeast United States but is not cold hardy in northern states."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
411	Climbing or smothering growth habit	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Moore, J. N. (1993). Blackberry plant named 'Arapaho' (U.S. Patent No. PP8,510). U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	"Plant: Size.-Medium, erect. Growth.-Vigorous, prolific suckering from crowns, good suckering from roots."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
412	Forms dense thickets	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Unknown. No evidence, but other Rubus are known to form thickets

Qsn #	Question	Answer
501	Aquatic	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Moore, J. N. (1993). Blackberry plant named 'Arapaho' (U.S. Patent No. PP8,510). U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	[Terrestrial] "Test plantings over a wide geographic area have shown this new variety to be adapted to differing soil and climatic conditions. It has performed well in tests in the Southeast United States but is not cold hardy in northern states."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
502	Grass	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Moore, J. N. & Clark, J. R. (1993). `Arapaho' Erect, Thornless Blackberry. HortScience, 28(8), 861-862	"Along-term goal of the Univ. of Arkansas, Fayetteville, blackberry breeding program has been to develop erect-caned, thornless blackberries (Rubus L. subgenus Eubatus) that do not require trellis support."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
503	Nitrogen fixing woody plant	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Moore, J. N. & Clark, J. R. (1993). `Arapaho' Erect, Thornless Blackberry. HortScience, 28(8), 861-862	"Along-term goal of the Univ. of Arkansas, Fayetteville, blackberry breeding program has been to develop erect-caned, thornless blackberries (Rubus L. subgenus Eubatus) that do not require trellis support."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
504	Geophyte (herbaceous with underground storage organs -- bulbs, corms, or tubers)	n

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Moore, J. N. (1993). Blackberry plant named ‘Arapaho’ (U.S. Patent No. PP8,510). U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	"Plant: Size.-Medium, erect. Growth.-Vigorous, prolific suckering from crowns, good suckering from roots."

601	Evidence of substantial reproductive failure in native habitat	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Moore, J. N. & Clark, J. R. (1993). `Arapaho' Erect, Thornless Blackberry. HortScience, 28(8), 861-862	[Artificial cultivar] "‘Arapaho’, tested as Ark. 1536, resulted from a cross of Ark. 631 × Ark. 883 made in 1982 (Fig. 1). Both parents of ‘Arapaho’ are thorny but are heterozygous for recessive genes for thornlessness. These genes were obtained from the British cultivar Merton Thornless via ‘Thornfree’ (Scott et al., 1957). The erect growth habit of ‘Arapaho’ was contributed by the erect, thorny cultivars Darrow, Hillquist, and Cherokee. All cultivars and selections listed in the ‘Arapaho’ pedigree are tetraploids. The original ‘Arapaho’ plant was selected from a seedling field in 1985. It has been tested at three locations in Arkansas and distributed for tests at several other state experiment stations."

602	Produces viable seed	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Moore, J. N. (1993). Blackberry plant named ‘Arapaho’ (U.S. Patent No. PP8,510). U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	"Seed size is smaller than other thornless and most thorny blackberry varieties, averaging 2.7 mg/seed."

603	Hybridizes naturally	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Moore, J. N. (1993). Blackberry plant named ‘Arapaho’ (U.S. Patent No. PP8,510). U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	[An artificial hybrid. Unknown if backcrosses with other Rubus species can occur] "The new and distinct variety of blackberry originated from a hand-pollinated cross of Arkansas Selection 631 (non-patented)x Arkansas Selection 883 (non-patented) made in 1982 at the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station Fruit Substation at Clarksville, Ark. The seeds resulting from this controlled hybridization were germi nated in a greenhouse in the spring of 1983 and planted in a field on the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station in Clarksville, Ark. The seedlings fruited during the summer of 1985 and one, designated Ark. 1536, was selected for its early fruit ripening, thornless canes, erect growth habit, and high fruit quality."

604	Self-compatible or apomictic	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Shrub Hub. (2026). Arapaho Thornless Blackberry. https://www.shrubhub.com/Shop-Plants/Blackberry-Bushes/Arapaho-Thornless-Blackberry/14511. [Accessed 19 Feb 2026]	"Pollination Info for Arapaho Thornless Blackberry (Rubus fruticosus 'Arapaho') The Arapaho Thornless Blackberry is self-pollinating, meaning that it does not require cross-pollination from another plant to produce fruit. However, cross-pollination can help increase fruit production. If you want to increase cross-pollination and fruit production, it is recommended to plant another thornless blackberry variety, such as Navaho or Ouachita, within 50 feet of the Arapaho Thornless Blackberry."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Gurney's Seed & Nursery Co. (2026). Arapaho Blackberry Plant. https://www.gurneys.com/products/arapaho_blackberry. [Accessed 19 Feb 2026]	"Pollinator Self pollinating."
	Strik, B. C. (2007). Berry crops: Worldwide area and production systems. In Y. Zhao (Ed.), Berry fruit: Value-added products for health promotion (pp. 3-50). CRC Press	[Presumably Yes. Fruit form in 'Arapaho' cultivar] "Raspberry flowers have five sepals, five petals, many stamens, and many pistils arranged spirally around a receptacle. Commercial red and black raspberries are self-fertile, in that a cross pollinator is not required. However, they do require insect/bee transfer of pollen to the pistils. Insufficient pollination or fruit set within a flower leads to the development of crumbly fruit."

605	Requires specialist pollinators	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Moore, J. N. (1993). Blackberry plant named 'Arapaho' (U.S. Patent No. PP8,510). U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	"Flowers: Date of bloom.-First - Julian 106; 50% - Julian 118; Last - Julian 130. Blossom color-Y=65.99, x=0.3284, y=0.3299 Greyed-White (156D). Reproductive organs.-Stamens - erect, numerous. Pistils - numerous. Pollen - normal and abundant. Number flowers per cluster-5 to 6. Number of petals per flower.-6."
	Shrub Hub. (2026). Arapaho Thornless Blackberry. https://www.shrubhub.com/Shop-Plants/Blackberry-Bushes/Arapaho-Thornless-Blackberry/14511. [Accessed 19 Feb 2026]	"Not only does the Arapaho Thornless Blackberry offer a bountiful harvest, but it also attracts beneficial pollinators such as bees and butterflies. Its delicate white flowers provide a plentiful source of nectar, supporting the health of local ecosystems and adding beauty to your garden."
	Gurney's Seed & Nursery Co. (2026). Arapaho Blackberry Plant. https://www.gurneys.com/products/arapaho_blackberry. [Accessed 19 Feb 2026]	"Pollinator Self pollinating."
	Strik, B. C. (2007). Berry crops: Worldwide area and production systems. In Y. Zhao (Ed.), Berry fruit: Value-added products for health promotion (pp. 3-50). CRC Press	"Raspberry flowers have five sepals, five petals, many stamens, and many pistils arranged spirally around a receptacle. Commercial red and black raspberries are self-fertile, in that a cross pollinator is not required. However, they do require insect/bee transfer of pollen to the pistils. Insufficient pollination or fruit set within a flower leads to the development of crumbly fruit."

606	Reproduction by vegetative fragmentation	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Moore, J. N. (1993). Blackberry plant named 'Arapaho' (U.S. Patent No. PP8,510). U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	"Growth.-Vigorous, prolific suckering from crowns, good suckering from roots."

607	Minimum generative time (years)	2
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Gardenia. (2026). Rubus fruticosus 'Arapaho' (Blackberry). https://www.gardenia.net/plant/rubus-fruticosus-arapaho. [Accessed 19 Feb 2026]	"Fruit is produced on two-year-old canes (previous season's growth)."

701	Propagules likely to be dispersed unintentionally (plants growing in heavily trafficked areas)	
	Source(s)	**Notes**

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Starr, F., Starr, K. & Loope, L.L. (2003). Rubus ellipticus - Yellow Himalayan raspberry - Rosaceae. http://www.starrenvironmental.com/publications/species_reports/pdf/rubus_ellipticus.pdf. [Accessed 19 Feb 2026]	[Unknown] "On Maui, R. ellipticus is not yet established in the wild. However, plants have been observed on hapu'u (Cibotium spp.) tree ferns and parts that are shipped from infested areas of Hawai'i. … These ferns appear "clean" during transport, then seeds sprout some time later in their new locations. There are likely more locations on Maui where Rubus ellipticus will be found in the future. Rubus ellipticus is a noxious weed and strategies for preventing inter-island transport are needed." [Unknown for Rubus ‘Arapaho’, but potential exists for inadvertent transport of seeds as has been documented with Rubus ellipticus]

702	Propagules dispersed intentionally by people	y
	Source(s)	Notes
	Moore, J. N. & Clark, J. R. (1993). `Arapaho' Erect, Thornless Blackberry. HortScience, 28(8), 861-862	"‘Arapaho’ is early ripening, erect, thornless, and quickly establishes a full fruiting row. It is expected to complement ‘Navaho’ and expand the harvest period for high-quality thornless blackberries." [Sold commercially]

703	Propagules likely to disperse as a produce contaminant	
	Source(s)	Notes
	Starr, F., Starr, K. & Loope, L.L. (2003). Rubus ellipticus - Yellow Himalayan raspberry - Rosaceae. http://www.starrenvironmental.com/publications/species_reports/pdf/rubus_ellipticus.pdf. [Accessed]	[Unknown] "On Maui, R. ellipticus is not yet established in the wild. However, plants have been observed on hapu'u (Cibotium spp.) tree ferns and parts that are shipped from infested areas of Hawai'i. … These ferns appear "clean" during transport, then seeds sprout some time later in their new locations. There are likely more locations on Maui where Rubus ellipticus will be found in the future. Rubus ellipticus is a noxious weed and strategies for preventing inter-island transport are needed." [Unknown for Rubus ‘Arapaho’, but potential exists for inadvertent seed contamination of tree fern trunks, or other produce, as has been documented with Rubus ellipticus]

704	Propagules adapted to wind dispersal	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Moore, J. N. (1993). Blackberry plant named ‘Arapaho’ (U.S. Patent No. PP8,510). U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	"Fruit: Maturity-Early, 14 days before Navaho. Average ripe date is June 5. Average period of ripening is June 5 to June 27. Size-Medium, average 5.0 g, uniform. Diameter: primary fruit at equator 1.92 cm, base pole 1.72 cm, terminal pole 1.22 cm; secondary fruit equator 1.76 cm, base pole 1.42 cm, terminal pole 1.07 cm Shape-Short conic, uniform. Color-Glossy black; Y=2.53, y=0.3129 Black (202A). Drupelet size.-Medium, 5.2 mm. Seed size, -Small, 2.7 mg."

705	Propagules water dispersed	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	No evidence. Rubus fruits are adapted for bird and vertebrate dissemination

706	Propagules bird dispersed	y

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	BulbsnBlooms (2026). Arapaho Thornless Blackberry Plant. https://www.bulbsnblooms.com/arapaho-thornless-blackberry-plant--2x3quot-p23.html. [Accessed 19 Feb 2026]	"The berries are large, very firm, and tasty with excellent flavor, and the berries are a favorite of songbirds and butterflies."
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Like other blackberries (Rubus spp.), 'Arapaho' produces fleshy aggregate fruits containing multiple small seeds. In general, blackberry seeds can survive passage through birds and other frugivores, making endozoochory (bird dispersal) biologically possible.

707	Propagules dispersed by other animals (externally)	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Moore, J. N. & Clark, J. R. (1993). `Arapaho' Erect, Thornless Blackberry. HortScience, 28(8), 861-862	"'Arapaho' fruit are short-conic and bright glossy black (Fig. 2). Fruit are firm, as estimated manually, similar to 'Navaho' and freer than 'Shawnee' or 'Choctaw' (Table 2). We rated flavor as equal to that of 'Navaho' and better than that of 'Shawnee' or 'Choctaw'. Soluble solids concentration, determined with a hand-held refractometer, was high but slightly lower than that of 'Navaho'. An important positive characteristic of 'Arapaho' is its small seed size. Seeds are significantly smaller, i.e., lighter, than those of 'Navaho' and' Shawnee' but slightly larger than those of 'Choctaw'." [Unlikely. Rubus fruits are adapted for internal bird and vertebrate dissemination & lack means of external attachment]

708	Propagules survive passage through the gut	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Moore, J. N. & Clark, J. R. (1993). `Arapaho' Erect, Thornless Blackberry. HortScience, 28(8), 861-862	"'Arapaho' fruit are short-conic and bright glossy black (Fig. 2). Fruit are firm, as estimated manually, similar to 'Navaho' and freer than 'Shawnee' or 'Choctaw' (Table 2). We rated flavor as equal to that of 'Navaho' and better than that of 'Shawnee' or 'Choctaw'. Soluble solids concentration, determined with a hand-held refractometer, was high but slightly lower than that of 'Navaho'. An important positive characteristic of 'Arapaho' is its small seed size. Seeds are significantly smaller, i.e., lighter, than those of 'Navaho' and' Shawnee' but slightly larger than those of 'Choctaw'." [Fleshy-fruited. Assumed to be bird dispersed]

801	Prolific seed production (>1000/m2)	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Moore, J. N. & Clark, J. R. (1993). `Arapaho' Erect, Thornless Blackberry. HortScience, 28(8), 861-862	[Unknown] "An important positive characteristic of 'Arapaho' is its small seed size. Seeds are significantly smaller, i.e., lighter, than those of 'Navaho' and' Shawnee' but slightly larger than those of 'Choctaw'."

802	Evidence that a persistent propagule bank is formed (>1 yr)	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Davies, A., & Waite, S. (1998). The persistence of calcareous grassland species in the soil seed bank under developing and established scrub. Plant Ecology, 136(1): 27-39	"The presence of the shade tolerant Rubus fruticosus (Fitter 1978), is of note. It occurs regularly in both field layer and seed bank and appears to be a shade tolerant species able to maintain a persistent soil seed bank." [Related species Rubus fruticosus may have a persistent seed bank, but unknown for Rubus 'Arapaho']

Qsn #	Question	Answer
803	**Well controlled by herbicides**	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Bruzzese, E.,Mahr, F.,Faithfull, I. & Turnbull, K. (2000). Best Practice Management Guide For Environmental Weeds 5. Blackberry, Rubus fruticosus aggregate. CRC for Weed Management Systems, Glen Osmond, AU. www.dpi.nsw.gov.a	[Chemicals to control other Rubus species would likely be effective] "A number of herbicides are registered for use on blackberry. Most are taken up by the leaves and transported to all parts of the plant, especially to the woody crown and roots, where they start to act. Use of these herbicides is intended to ensure that the active constituent is carried inside the plant to the roots and crowns, where it can kill these parts of the plant. Herbicides can be applied by spraying, by painting foliage and cut stems, and as granules. 'Cut and paint' or 'slash and paint' methods are time consuming but are often used near water courses to avoid herbicide runoff. An effective approach is to cut all canes about 30cm above ground level, remove all the cut canes and then cut the stems at ground level and immediately paint on herbicide."

804	**Tolerates, or benefits from, mutilation, cultivation, or fire**	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Gurney's Seed & Nursery Co. (2026). Arapaho Blackberry Plant. https://www.gurneys.com/products/arapaho_blackberry. [Accessed 19 Feb 2026]	"In late Winter, early Spring, prune and thin your blackberry plants. Any time of the year, you can prune out dead or diseased canes."
	Shrub Hub. (2026). Arapaho Thornless Blackberry. https://www.shrubhub.com/Shop-Plants/Blackberry-Bushes/Arapaho-Thornless-Blackberry/14511. [Accessed 19 Feb 2026]	"Regular watering and yearly pruning will help maintain the plant's vigor and shape."
	Gardenia. (2026). Rubus fruticosus ‘Arapaho’ (Blackberry). https://www.gardenia.net/plant/rubus-fruticosus-arapaho. [Accessed 19 Feb 2026]	[Tolerates pruning] "To prune trailing blackberries, first cut away any canes that have fruited. Do this after harvest or when the plants are dormant. In late winter, thin out new canes to the most vigorous 8-10 per plant. Shorten long canes to 7 ft. (210 cm) and laterals to 12-18 in. (30-45 cm)."

805	**Effective natural enemies present locally (e.g. introduced biocontrol agents)**	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Unlikely. Several naturalized species of Rubus have become highly invasive in the Hawaiian Islands, suggesting that natural enemies of Rubus are not present or ineffective at preventing their spread

Summary of Risk Traits:

High-Risk Traits
• Grows in USDA zones 4-9 (environmentally versatile)
• History of repeated introductions
• Genus contains serious invasive species (e.g., R. niveus, R. fruticosus)
• Self-pollinating (does not require specialist pollinators)
• Produces viable seeds
• Spreads vegetatively (suckers from crowns and roots)
• Fleshy fruits adapted for bird dispersal
• Tolerates pruning (resilient to mutilation)
• Tolerates a wide range of soils (clay, loam, sand; various pH)

Low-Risk Traits
• No evidence of naturalization anywhere after >30 years of cultivation
• Thornless
• Fruit edible; no toxicity reported
• Requires 400-500 chilling hours (limits tropical lowland establishment)

Second Screening Results for Tree/tree-like Shrubs
A) Shade tolerant OR known to form dense stands)? Unknown. Evaluate Further
B) Bird- OR clearly wind-dispersed? Presumably bird-dispersed, but evidence from cultivation is lacking
C) Life cycle <4 years? Yes. Produces fruit on two-year-old canes