

Rubus strigosus

[Synonyms : *Batidaea strigosa*, *Rubus idaeus* var. *strigosus*]

WILD RED RASPBERRY is a prickly biennial shrub. Native to North America it has rose-like greenish-white or white flowers.

It is also known as *Aghamugi* (Omaha and Ponca North American Indian), American raspberry, American red raspberry, *Aparu* (Pawnee North American Indian), *Arbre à framboises* (French-Canadian), *Framboisier* (French-Canadian), Grayleaf red raspberry, May berry, Raspberry, Red raspberry, *Takahecha-hu* (Dakota and Ponca North American Indian), and Western red raspberry.

Strigosus means ‘with stiff bristles’.

The juicy and tasty light-red fruit were eaten by local North American Indian tribes including the Hoh, Menominee, Montana Indian, Cheyenne, Shuswap, Hanaksiala, Chippewa, Oweekeno, Potawatomi, Pawnee, Kitasoo, Dakota, Haisla, Quileute and Ponca. The Potawatomi made them into preserves, and they and some of the Chippewa also used the berries to make jam. Several tribes including the Pawnee, Hoh, Chippewa, Iroquois, Dakota, Quileute, Ponca and Omaha all stored the fruit for later use, primarily for food in Winter or as say in the case of the Iroquois for hunting provisions. Quite a few tribes not least the Hanaksiala, Omaha, Dakota, Pawnee, Haisla and Ponca also made a tea with the leaves – while some of the Chippewa made a used the twigs to make a beverage.

The shrub was a source of medicine for a few Indian tribes. Chippewa Indians used it to treat measles and dysentery, while the Cherokee seem to have turned to it as a purgative or a remedy for some female disorders. Thompson Indians took it to stem internal bleeding, the Omaha gave it to their children for bowel problems, and some of the Chippewa took a crushed root decoction for stomach-ache. Both the Potawatomi and Chippewa tribes appear to have used a root or root bark infusion as an eyewash, the Meskwaki and some of the Chippewa flavoured medicines with it, and the Thompson Indians took a root decoction as a tonic.

The first European to identify it was probably a French lawyer, Marc Lescarbot (c. 1567- c. 1629) when he was a member of an expedition in Canada in 1607.