

Berries

Amami winter berry / *Rubus amaminus* / Amami fuyu-ichigo / アマミフユイチゴ

The wild Amami winter berry grows only on Amami-Oshima and neighboring Tokunoshima Island. On Amami-Oshima it is found in the forest near the summit of Mt. Yuwandake, the highest peak on the island at 694 meters. The plant grows close to the ground and has round, rough-edged green leaves with dark-green veins that are covered with dense hairs. It bears a few small red berries similar to strawberries. The flowers bloom in the rainy season, and the plant bears its fruit in summer, leading many people to wonder how it got its name.

Ryukyu rose berry / *Rubus croceacanthus* / Ryukyu bara-ichigo / リュウキュウバライチゴ

The bushes of this berry plant grow to a height of 1 to 2 meters, and are found on the edges of mountain forests from the Ryukyu Islands north to Shizuoka Prefecture in central Honshu. The branches are covered with dense hair, and the leaves have serrated edges and sharp tips. White flowers about 4 centimeters in diameter bloom from late winter to early spring. The berries that appear later are dark red, about 1 centimeter across, and sweet.