Himalayan Blackberry

Scientific Name:	*Rubus armeniacus*
Weed Class:	C
Year Listed:	2009
Requirement:	Control not required
Other Names:	N/A
Native To:	Asia
Toxicity:	Not known to be

Why is it a noxious weed?

It is a notorious invasive species in many countries around the world and costs millions of dollars for both control and in estimated impacts. This species spreads aggressively and has severe negative impacts to native plants, wildlife and livestock.

How would I identify it?

General Description

It is a rambling evergreen, perennial, woody shrub with stout stems that possess stiff, hooked prickles. It may grow up to 13 feet tall. Plants grow into impenetrable thickets.

Flower Description

Flower clusters are flat-topped and have 5 to 20 flowers. Each flower has 5 petals that are white to rose colored and about 1 inch in diameter.

Leaf Description

Leaves are alternately arranged on stems. Each leaf is palmate compound and made up of 3 to 5 (typically 5) leaflets with toothed margins.

Stem Description

Stems, commonly called canes, can reach up to 20 to 40 feet and can root at their tips when they touch the ground. Canes have hooked, sharp prickles with wide bases. They make dense thickets that are impassable and sprawl over the surrounding vegetation.

Fruit/Seed Description

Flowers form blackberries; a grouping of small, shiny, black drupelets that each contain one seed. Blackberries are about 1/2 inch to 1 inch in size.

Where does it grow?

It can grow in mixed and deciduous forests and a variety of disturbed sites such as roadsides, railroad tracks, logged lands, field margins and riparian areas. It does well in a wide range of soil pH and textures.

How does it reproduce?

It can reproduce by seeds and also vegetatively. Flowers can produce seeds with and without fertilization. It can vegetatively reproduce by re-sprouting rootstalks, rooting stem tips and root and stem fragments.

How do I control Himalayan Blackberry?

The most effective way to manage weed infestations is to research, plan for, and use a combination of prevention and control methods specific to the problem weed. This approach is called **I**ntegrated **W**eed **M**anagement (IWM), which uses mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical control methods that effectively treat the problem weed yet protect human health, habitat, water, and other natural resources.

IWM Control Method		Effectiveness of Control			Timing and Notes **
		Good	Fair	Poor	
Digging			F		Remove as much of root system as possible.
Hand–Pulling				P	Often not effective due to breakage, allowing re-growth from the crown/roots.
Mowing				P	Not usually effective as a sole control method. Repeatedly mowing the entire blackberry patch to ground level every two weeks during the growing season for three successive years can achieve reduction in patch size.
Tilling				P	Somewhat effective if tilled to four (4) inches deep. Then sow a cover crop.
Bark Mulch				P	Not effective as a sole control method.
Black Plastic				P	Highly aggressive - Not effective as a sole control method.
Cover Crop				P	Not effective as a sole control method. First till or apply herbicide.
Native Plant Restoration				P	Establishing a native planting in existing blackberry is not recommended. Blackberry control should happen first, then plant.
Soil Amendments				P	Not effective as sole control method.
Managed Grazing			F		Grazing with goats may be effective at clearing and controlling regrowth.
Weed-Feeding Insects		-	-	-	None.
Herbicides - (Examples*)					
Glyphosate	Roundup, Aqua-Neat	G			Apply in September and October. (After the first fall rains but before frost.) Thoroughly coat all leaves and stems.
Triclopyr	Garlon 3A, Weed B Gon	G			Apply in September and October. (After the first fall rains but before frost.) Thoroughly coat all leaves and stems.
Triclopyr combinations	Crossbow, Capstone	G			Apply in September and October. (After the first fall rains but before frost.) Thoroughly coat all leaves and stems.

*Brand names are listed as examples only. Other products may contain the listed chemical. Clark County does not endorse any product or brand name. *Always read and follow the herbicide label.*

****Timing of control is critical!** Herbicide treatments are often not effective or appropriate when plants are in flower. If the weeds have produced seed, bag the plants and place in garbage, not compost. Regardless of control method chosen, multiple treatments may be needed each year. For more information on IWM, specific herbicides, and timing of control, please contact the Weed Board at:

Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board • Vegetation Management
4700 NE 78th Street, Building G • Vancouver, WA 98665
Telephone: (564) 397-6140 • Email: weed.board@clark.wa.gov