

Early Detection, Rapid Response

Invasive Plant Fact Sheet:

Himalayan Blackberry



Figure 1: Leaves



Figure 2: Flowers



Figure 3: Brambles

Common name: Himalayan blackberry (HBB)

Scientific name: *Rubus armeniacus*

Duration: Perennial

Characteristics: Woody vine-like shrub. Leaves are compound and ovate to round in shape, with approximately five leaflets per petiole. Stems have large thorns and arches, creating brambles. Flowers are white to pink in color, and the fruit ripens from green to red to black. Trailing blackberry, a native to Oregon that should not be removed, will only have three leaflets and grows close to the ground. The thorns are also noticeably smaller than that of HBB.

Treatment options:

Manual control:

Manual control methods are highly selective and permit weeds to be removed with limited damage to surrounding native vegetation. If cutting occurs before seeds are produced it may be piled and left for wildlife. Debris may be fed through a mechanical chipper and used as mulch. Mowing in particular, but also using a weed eater may actually mulch in place. Once dry, HBB canes can be easily burned. If left on site, take care to prevent vegetative reproduction from cuttings. This can be easily accomplished by preventing plant-to-soil contact. An advantage of mechanical / manual cane removal over foliar herbicides is that cane removal apparently does not stimulate sucker formation on lateral roots.

Hand Pulling:

Firmly grabbing the stem near the ground surface and uprooting the root crown is the simplest control strategy. This method is most appropriate for seedlings or young plants. It is especially effective with single canes, and works best after a rain or where the soil is soft. Plants should be pulled as soon as they are large enough to grasp, and before they produce seeds. The root crown of larger plants with multiple stems will resist hand pulling in most cases. This technique appears to work best with shade suppressed canes in forest understory or first year plants.

Hand Hoeing:

Plants can be controlled while small by hand hoeing, either by cutting off their tops or by stirring the surface soil so as to expose the seedlings to the drying action of the sun. The objective of hoeing is to cut off the tops of the weeds without going too deeply into the ground and doing damage to the roots of desirable vegetation.