



Yachats Weed of the Month - October

Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*)

Himalayan blackberry goes by various of scientific names, including *R. armeniacus*, *R. discolor* and *R. bifrons*, but they all boil down to one thing – a highly invasive plant that has colonized much of our region. Although it is not flowering or producing fruit at this time of the year, it will need no introduction to anyone who has spent more than a few hours driving around the Oregon coast.

Impact: Himalayan blackberry displaces native plants, obstructs water flow in streams and irrigation ditches, and inhibits recreational activities.

Identification: Left unchecked, blackberry forms dense, impenetrable thickets. The long, reddish canes, sharp spines, white to pink flowers that appear in the summer and the edible black berries all serve to make it easily recognizable.

Management: Blackberry thickets can be controlled by cutting back the stems and then digging the plants out by the roots. The initial removal should be followed up regularly for several years to remove new plantlets and sprouts from residual roots. As with most weeds, it is best to deal with the plants when they are still small. Although herbicide treatment can be effective, the city of Yachats discourages this approach.



Contact information: Call Wally at 541 547 5474 if you have any questions. For Yachats' invasive plants web page, go to www.yachats.info/YIPS

"Yachats Weed of the Month" is an informational service of the Yachats Trails Committee and YIPS! - the Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee.