



Yachats Weed of the Month – September 2023

Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus discolor*)

Himalayan blackberry goes by various scientific names, including *R. discolor*, *R. armeniacus* and *R. bifrons*, but they all boil down to one thing – a highly invasive plant that has colonized much of our region. Blackberry will need no introduction to anyone who has spent more than a few hours driving around the Oregon coast.

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.

Habitat: Blackberry enjoys the high rainfall of the Oregon coast. It quickly colonizes disturbed areas such as roadsides and cleared lots. One square yard of blackberry thicket can produce 10,000 seeds each season. Birds and animals can disperse these seeds over long distances.

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

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. Although herbicide treatment can be effective, the city of Yachats discourages this approach.

The Yachats Trails Crew has made great progress in reclaiming habitat from blackberry at the Yachats Community Park and Wetland. Unfortunately, there are many privately-owned lots in town where blackberries are still growing out of control. Please help us by ensuring that there is no blackberry anywhere on your property!

The Weed of the Month is brought to you by the Yachats Trails Crew. Visit our website www.yachatstrails.org

