

## Yachats Weed of the Month – February 2024

### Clematis or Old Man's Beard (*Clematis vitalba*)

**Impact:** Clematis invades moist forests, especially along riverbanks and near urban areas. A vine that can grow up to 100 ft. long, it can climb and smother tall trees by cutting off the light they need for photosynthesis. In Yachats you can see it on trees above the Hwy 101 cutting just north of the bridge; also, at the south end of bridge, blanketing the indigenous vegetation on the riverbank.

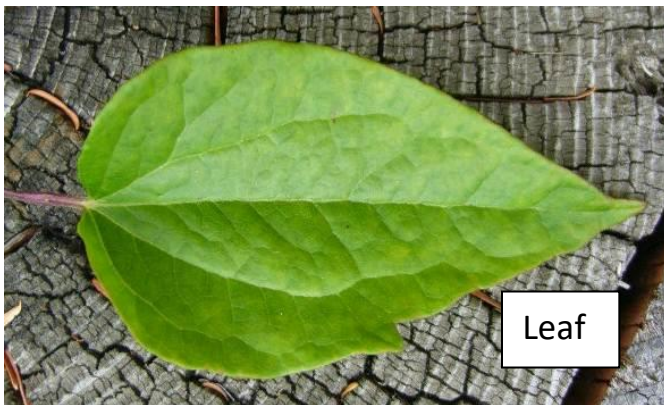
**Identification:** Clematis is a perennial, deciduous, woody vine. The compound leaves are in groups of five, sometimes displaying coarse serrations (see photo). Clematis blooms in late summer, producing small white flowers. The flowers and seed heads make clematis easily identifiable at this time of the year. The seed heads remain visible through the winter – keep a lookout for them when next you are out and about.

**Management:** Do not cultivate any clematis unless you are sure it is a non-invasive variety. Pull or dig clematis plants out by the roots. Clematis in trees will die if the vines are cut near the base of the tree and the roots are removed. Dispose of the plants where they will not be able to re-establish themselves.

The Weed of the Month is brought to you by the Yachats Trails Crew. Visit our website [www.yachatstrails.org](http://www.yachatstrails.org)



Flowers



Leaf



Seed heads