



## Yachats Weed of the Month – March 2024

Montbretia/Crocoshmia (*Crocoshmia x crocosmiiflora*)

**Impact:** Crocosmia is a small genus of flowering plants in the iris family, originating in southern and eastern Africa. Several varieties are found in cultivation, the most common being an orange hybrid form, often called montbretia, that has become highly invasive in various parts of the world. This is the one that can be seen flowering along roadsides around Yachats in August. Montbretia is very adaptable, growing in both wet and dry locations. It grows from underground corms, and readily escapes from cultivation by forming new corms a short distance from the parent plant. It rarely spreads by seed. Once montbretia forms a dense clump, native plants are totally excluded. It has invaded the Yachats Community Park in various places, the riverbank at Quiet Water and the verge along Ocean View Drive. A less problematic variety of crocosmia is “Lucifer”, a tall form with brilliant red flowers that attracts hummingbirds and deer.

**Identification:** Crocosmia leaves are sword shaped. The attractive orange flowers of montbretia seen in midsummer are unmistakable – see photo alongside.



**Management:** It requires a lot of persistence to eliminate montbretia. Each plant forms multiple corms that must be dug up and disposed of, but some of them are very small and it is virtually impossible to find them all at once. You will need to revisit the area every few months for several years, and deal with new growths as they appear. Be careful to properly dispose of all plant parts, otherwise it is easy to inadvertently create a new colony.

**Contact information:** Call Wally at 541 606 0055 if you have any questions. For more weed info, go to [www.yachatstrails.org](http://www.yachatstrails.org)

Yachats “Weed of the Month” is an informational service brought to you by the Yachats Trails Team.