

HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY

Himalayan blackberry is a robust, perennial, sprawling, more or less evergreen shrub of the Rose family (Rosaceae). Leaves are large, round to oblong and toothed, and typically come in sets of three (side shoots) or five (main stems). The most characteristic feature is probably the robust stems supporting large, stiff prickles.



Family: Rosaceae

Other scientific names:
Rubus discolor, *Rubus procerus*

Weed Class: C

Year Listed: 2009

Native to: Asia

Toxic: not known to be



Why is it a noxious weed?

It is a notorious invasive species in many countries around the world and costs millions of dollars for both control and in estimated impacts. This species spreads aggressively and has severe negative impacts to native plants, wildlife and livestock.

Origin and Habitat

Contrary to its common name, Himalayan Blackberry (HBB) is a native of Western Europe. HBB was probably first introduced to North America in 1885 as a cultivated crop. By 1945 it had naturalized along the West Coast. HBB occurs on both acidic and alkaline soils, mainly in areas with average annual rainfall greater than 29 inches at altitudes up to 6000 feet. It thrives and may form impenetrable thickets in wastelands, pastures, forest plantations, roadsides, creek gullies, river flats, fence lines, and right-of-way corridors. HBB thrives in moist but not true wetland soils, and tolerates a wide range of soil moisture. Himalayan Blackberry is classified as a Class "C" noxious weed.

Blackberry Removal

How to Remove Himalayan Blackberry a Step-by-Step Tutorial using common hand tools.

The key to successfully getting rid of blackberries is removing the root nodule and as much of the attached roots as you can. This is easiest when the soil is moist and crumbly in late Spring, not when it's rock hard after Summer's drying heat. **1)** Starting on the outer edges of the plant, trim each cane/stem of the plant back 8-12 inches at a clip using short to medium length loppers. Note: if you are going to be removing the canes from the site (vs. simply letting them decompose on the ground) then cut them in convenient lengths for hauling away, e.g. 1-2 foot lengths if you are hauling them away in a wheel barrow or placing into a yard debris can. Continue cutting until only one or two canes of about 6-8 inches are left standing above the ground. **2a)** Place the tip of your shovel about 3-5 inches in front of where the canes enter the ground and push the shovel into the ground as far as you can. **2b)** Tilt the shovel handle back to see if you can lift the root nodule out of the ground. If not turn 90 degrees from your first "cut" with the shovel and repeat until the root nodule easily lifts above the ground. **3a)** If you are using a grub hoe, the process is similar. Swing your medium to long handled grub hoe so that the metal tines plunge into the ground about 3-5 inches behind where the canes of the blackberry come up out of the ground. **3b)** Then push the top of the grub hoe handle away from you to try and lift the root nodule out of the ground. Once you have the nodule above ground, you should be able to easily pull it and possibly some attached root out of the ground. If the tines come up empty, try swinging them closer to the plant, and or rotate 90 degrees relative to your first plunge. **4)** To prevent them from sprouting new roots, place the removed nodules and roots on weed barrier fabric, a nearby log, or any place they can dry out without contacting moist soil. The cane clippings can be left on the ground and will decompose and disappear in about a year or two. Very young first time growth can sometimes simply be pulled out of the ground when the ground is still moist. If the cane breaks off above ground level, you will then have to use one of the above methods to find and remove the buried nodule. If the berry bushes are large and have already fruited one or more times you may have to repeat these steps each year until the supply of blackberry seed from earlier fruiting has been exhausted. It gets easier each year.

REVISED CODE OF WASHINGTON

RCW 17.10.140 Owner's duty to control spread of noxious weeds.

- (1) Except as is provided under subsection (2) of this section, every owner shall perform or cause to be performed those acts as may be necessary to:
 - (a) Eradicate all class A noxious weeds;
 - (b) Control and prevent the spread of all class B noxious weeds designated for control in that region within and from the owner's property; and
 - (c) Control and prevent the spread of all class B and class C noxious weeds listed on the county weed list as locally mandated control priorities within and from the owner's property.
- (2) Forest lands classified under RCW [17.10.240](#)(2), or meeting the definition of forest lands contained in RCW [17.10.240](#), are subject to the requirements of subsection (1)(a) and (b) of this section at all times. Forest lands are subject to the requirements of subsection (1)(c) of this section only within a one thousand foot buffer strip of adjacent land uses. In addition, forest lands are subject to subsection (1)(c) of this section for a single five-year period following the harvesting of trees for lumber.

MARYSVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE— PUBLIC NUISANCES

MMC 6.24.020 Definitions

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context or meaning clearly indicates otherwise:

- (1) "Abate" means to repair, replace, remove, destroy, correct or otherwise remedy the condition in question by such means and in such a manner and to such an extent as the director's judgment determines is necessary in the interest of the general safety and welfare of the community.
- (3) "Nuisance" is the unlawful performance of an act or omission to perform a duty, which act or omission either annoys, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health or safety of others, offends decency, or unlawfully interferes with, obstructs or tends to obstruct, or render dangerous for passage, any lake or navigable river, bay, stream, canal or basin, or any public park, square, street or highway; or in any way renders other persons insecure in life, or in the use of property.
- (4) "Person" means any natural person, organization, corporation or partnership and their agents, representatives or assigns.
- (5) "Premises" means any building, lot, parcel, real estate, land or portion thereof whether improved or unimproved, including adjacent sidewalks and parking strips.
- (6) "Public nuisance" is a nuisance that affects equally the rights of an entire community or neighborhood, although the extent of the damage may be unequal. (Ord. 2873 § 2, 2011; Ord. 2046 § 1, 1995).

MMC 6.24.050 Types of nuisances

- (9) Dead, decayed, diseased or hazardous trees or vegetation/grass clippings (except that used as compost for fertilizer), including that which by casual contact with the skin is dangerous to public health, safety and welfare, located in any front yard, side yard, rear yard or vacant lot.
- (13) Vegetation exceeding 12 inches in height (exclusive of plants and flowers within a flower bed, shrubbery and trees) located in any front yard, side yard, or rear yard of a residential lot within a platted subdivision unless screened from public view from the adjacent frontage street or streets.

For more information contact:

Snohomish County <http://snohomishcountywa.gov/722/Noxious-Weeds>
Washington State <http://agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/Weeds/>