



*Rubus armeniacus*

WA – Class C Noxious Weed

OR – Class B Noxious Weed

## **Himalayan Blackberry**

Himalaya Blackberry, Armenian Blackberry

**Family:** Rosaceae

**Origins:** Native to Eurasia, Himalayan Blackberry was introduced intentionally into North America on the East Coast in 1885 by Luther Burbank for its tasty blackberries. By 1945, it had escaped cultivation and spread to the West Coast.



**Range:** Found throughout the United States.

**Habitat:** Commonly found in disturbed areas such as roadsides, railroad tracks, field margins, and riparian sites. Blackberry tolerates periodic episodes of floodwaters but does not do well under dense canopies or extreme droughts.

**Impact:** As an effective competitor, this species typically outcompetes native species by forming thickets, creating large areas of unusable habitat for livestock and wildlife. These thickets are also considered a fire hazard when close to buildings and can be a significant host for bacterial pathogens, causing diseases.



*Images: Courtesy of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board.*

**Description:** Himalayan Blackberry is a rambling evergreen, perennial, woody shrub with trailing, stout stems that possess sharp, stiff spines. The stems, referred to as canes, can reach up to 40 feet and can root at the tips. Alternating leaves are palmate with toothed margins, each compound leaf has three to five leaflets. The flowers grow in flat topped clusters of 5 to 20 flowers, blooming from June to August. Each flower is about 1 inch across with five petals ranging from white to rose in color. The fruit is a small grouping of shiny, black drupelets that each contain one seed. Blackberries form after bloom through September.

**Common Look-Alikes:** Evergreen Blackberry, Trailing Blackberry (Washington native).

*\*Himalayan Blackberry is not known to be toxic.*

### **Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods**

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) combines various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. For more information, see the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed's IPM Resources & Strategy Guide or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

#### **Non-Herbicide Control**

<p><b>Mechanical</b> (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.)</p>	<p>Plants can be dug up, although roots that break off and remain in the soil may re-sprout. Monitor the area and control regrowth and seedlings. Remove and dispose of stems and roots.</p> <p>Integrated management tip: cut blackberry to ground level, allow to regrow for more than two weeks, and follow with an herbicide application to new growth.</p>
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<b>Cultural</b>	Prescribed burning to burn the plants back to the ground can effectively reduce the infestation size. However, herbicide must be applied to the regrowth, as the fire will not kill the roots.
<b>Biological</b>	Grazing by goats is especially successful, yet sheep, cattle, and horses may also be effective. Grazing may control the population from spreading and becoming larger but does not eradicate the plants from the site. Follow with additional control methods.

### Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment

<b>Glyphosate</b> (Rodeo, Killzall, Kleenup, Roundup)	<b>Timing:</b> September to October, when plants are actively growing and after berries have formed; fall treatments must be made before the killing frost. <b>Remarks:</b> Spray complete uniform coverage, but not to the point of runoff; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; Glyphosate is nonselective, it injures or kills any vegetation it contacts; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.
<b>Triclopyr Ester / Triclopyr Amine</b> (Garlon 4, Remedy / Garlon 3A)	<b>Timing:</b> Apply to actively growing plants. <b>Remarks:</b> Spray complete uniform coverage; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; Garlon products are registered for rights-of-way, industrial sites, and forestry sites; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.
<b>Triclopyr +2,4-D</b> (Crossbow, Crossroad)	<b>Timing:</b> Apply to actively growing plants. <b>Remarks:</b> Observe all grazing and harvesting restrictions; avoid drift to sensitive crops; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; do not apply near water.
<b>Metsulfuron</b> (Escort, MSM)	<b>Timing:</b> Apply to fully leafed-out vegetation before fall leaf coloration. <b>Remarks:</b> Do not allow spray to drift to sensitive crops; apply only to pasture, rangeland, and non-crop sites; application sites differ between products; for best results, use a surfactant; do not apply near water.
<b>Aminocyclopyrachlor + metsulfuron-methyl</b> (Streamline)	<b>Timing:</b> Apply to actively growing woody plants. <b>Remarks:</b> Even low rates can kill non-target tree and shrub species, avoid application near sensitive species; applications to stressed plants may reduce control; do not allow spray to drift off target; do not apply near water.

\* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**

This control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB), [nwcb.wa.gov](http://nwcb.wa.gov). Herbicide information from the PNW Weed Management Handbook (ISBN 978-1-931979-22-1) and product labels.