



Noxious Weed Fact Bulletin

A partnership between Island County Noxious Weed Board & Whidbey Island Conservation District

Himalayan Blackberry, *Rubus armeniacus*

(aka *Rubus discolor*)



Himalayan Blackberry is a perennial shrub that is native to Eurasia. Commonly found on Whidbey Island, it is a member of the family Rosaceae, in the Order Rosales. It's a Non-regulated Class C weed in Island County, meaning that it is widespread in the county, but has not been designated for control by the Island County Noxious Weed Control Board. Property owners are encouraged but not required to control Non-regulated weeds.



First-year leaves are palmately compound with 5 leaflets. In the second year, several side shoots are produced (flora canes) having smaller leaves with 3 leaflets. The leaflets are oval and toothed with thorns along the underside of the mid-rib. Flowering occurs in late spring to early summer; when white to pale pink flowers develop on the flora canes. Fruits are an aggregate of drupelets that are black when mature. As the plant grows and the stems touch the ground they root at the nodes, producing a dense thicket that shades out other plant species.

Himalayan Blackberry is best controlled by digging it up before it goes to seed, but wear heavy gloves, as it has sharp thorns. Repeated, frequent mowing can weaken plants and prevent seeding, and can eventually provide effective control. It is an aggressive spreader, so it's a tough one to eradicate once it's established on your property.

This link to the King County website is also a good source of information:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/blackberry.aspx>



As always, if you have more questions you can contact Janet Stein, Island County Noxious Weed Coordinator, at 678-7992, or at: janet.stein@wsu.edu. For more information on Himalayan Blackberry, visit the Washington Noxious Weed Control Board website here:

<http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/detail.asp?weed=111>

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Whidbeycd.org