

Mowing Method

THIS METHOD SHOULD BE USED WHEN:

- There is little or no slope
- The ground is dry and firm year-round
- There are no desired plants in or around invasion

MOW blackberry at least 4 times each year during the growing season (March-November). Continued mowing over several years will starve the roots and kill the plants, but mowing must be consistent. If blackberry is left uncontrolled for a prolonged amount of time, thickets will grow too large to control by mowing.

PLANT AND MONITOR as described in the Basic Manual Control Method. It will likely take longer than 3 years to remove blackberry by mowing alone. Do not plant until mowing has successfully eradicated the blackberry.

Other Control Methods

Chemical methods should only be utilized if you feel that your infestation of blackberry is too large or difficult to remove by hand and with basic tools. Please visit 4countycwma.org or refer to Metro's Grow Smart Grow Safe guide (www.lhwmp.org/home/gsgs) for more control recommendations.

A Word of Caution

For any herbicide applications we urge you to work with a licensed herbicide applicator and refer to Metro's Grow Smart Grow Safe guide (www.lhwmp.org/home/gsgs), or contact your county noxious weed coordinator. Always read and follow the label on any chemical product you are using!



The mission of the 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area, comprising Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah, and Washington Counties, is to create and support collaborative weed management in the greater Portland area. For more details on our collaborative efforts in management, mapping, and outreach, please visit our website:

www.4countycwma.org



HIMALAYAN AND EVERGREEN BLACKBERRY

(*Rubus armeniacus*, *Rubus laciniatus*)

4-County CWMA
Class C Weed

OR Class B Noxious Weed

WA Class C Noxious Weed



Photo: Johnida Dockins

Overview

Himalayan blackberry has taken over many streamsidés and natural areas in the Pacific Northwest. This invasive blackberry species out-competes native understory vegetation and prevents the establishment of native trees and shrubs that require sun for germination.

How to Identify

Himalayan or Armenian blackberry and Evergreen blackberry are non-native invasive species that grow quickly and heartily in the Pacific Northwest. Their canes (or vines) have five sides and mature plants have leaflets in groups of five. The white flowers bloom in summer. Thorns are hard, sharp, and often hooked.

Thickets are often over 8 feet tall and brambles will climb and overtop shrubs, trees, and narrow streams.

Lookalikes

There is a native blackberry in the northwest commonly known as trail-ing, creeping, or Pacific blackberry. It is also sometimes referred to as Pacific dewberry. This native plant can be identified by its weak, slightly bluish vines that are generally covered in a white, waxy coating and have 3 leaflets instead of 5.

Native salmonberry may also be confused with blackberry, but can be easily distinguished by the lack of curved thorns. When in bloom, salmonberry flowers are pink rather than white.

When to Remove

Manual/mechanical removal is best done when the soil is moist and before seeds begin to form, although removal can occur at any time if proper follow-up maintenance is available. During late spring and early summer months, it is crucial to check blackberry thickets for bird nests. If you find a nest in a thicket, it is best to leave a 15 ft radius around the nest and avoid using loud power tools.



Photo: Nate Woodard

Basic Manual Control Methods

THIS METHOD SHOULD BE USED WHEN:

- Terrain is flat or gently sloped

TOOLS TO CHOOSE FROM:

- Gloves
- Tarp
- Weed whackers, loppers, hand pruners, and/or machetes
- Shovel or claw mattock

PREPARE an area to pile the blackberry. Use bare ground or clear an area of blackberry, including rootballs. Place two layers of cardboard (compostable) or a single tarp (removable/reusable) on top of the soil to prevent plant matter from rerooting. If neither of these options is available, build a thick mat of sticks and branches to pile/place cut canes on top of. Canes may also be chipped and composted.

CUT canes into 1-2 ft long pieces using weed whackers, loppers, hand pruners and/or machetes. If left in contact with soil, longer canes may grow roots and continue to thrive. Leave 2 ft cane stumps coming off rootballs in ground to mark where each root crown is located. If using a weed whacker, be careful not to cut canes so short that you can't locate the root crowns.

Pile the bulk of blackberry canes off to one side of your site so you have clear access to the root balls left in the ground.

REMOVE ROOTBALLS from the soil using shovels, or claw-mattocks. Removing as much root material as possible will decrease the amount of blackberry "resprouts". Resprouts and small roots may be hand-pulled from moist soil. Throw rootballs on top of the pile of canes (away from soil, where they will dry out and die), or remove and compost them.

PLANT NATIVE PLANTS in the area that is being controlled after the bulk of the invasive plants are removed. This will help to repopulate the area with desired species and prevent new and recurring invasions.

MONITOR the area for resprouts. It is almost certain that blackberry root fragments you have missed will continue to grow and produce new canes. After initial removal, the area needs to be managed at least twice a year to remove new growth. After 2-3 years of diligent removal, the area should be blackberry free.



Photo: Nate Woodard



Photo: Dawn Endico