Stop The Invasion

Photographs courtesy of Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., Bugwood.org

Himalayan Blackberry

Rubus armeniacus

What is it?

Native to Asia, the Himalayan blackberry is an evergreen shrub with canes covered in thorns and berries that are edible for humans. It can grow in a variety of environments and often is found along roadsides, riverbanks, parks, and other disturbed areas. Himalayan blackberry shades out smaller, native species, reducing native plant and wildlife diversity.

Is it here yet?

Yes, it is found throughout Washington.

Why should I care?

Himalayan blackberry shades out smaller, native species, reducing native plant and wildlife diversity. Its extensive stands can decrease usable pasture, limit animals' access to water, and trap young livestock. Blackberry fruit can be a food source to invasive birds and mammals such as European starlings and rats.

What should I do if I find one?

Do not purchase, plant, or trade this species. Contact your county noxious weed coordinator at http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/nwcb_county.htm. Report online at www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml.

How can we stop it?

Prevent spread by controlling populations on your own property. Himalayan blackberry is listed as a Class C noxious weed in Washington, meaning that counties may decide to implement control, education, or technical support efforts.

Report Sightings @

invasivespecies.wa.gov

June 2016

Photograph courtesy of Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., Bugwood.org

What are its characteristics?

- Evergreen shrub with canes covered with thorns.
- Bears pinkish-white, five-petaled flowers in clusters and shiny, purple, 1-inch-long berries.
- Leaves are typically composed of five, large oval leaves, which are dark green on the upper side with grayish-green undersides.

How do I distinguish it from native species?

Native blackberries can be distinguished by their smaller, straighter, thinner thorns and leaves with three leaflets of a similar color on both sides.

Where do I get more information?

- King County: http://kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/blackberry.aspx
- U.S. Department of Agriculture: http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=RUAR9

Report Sightings @

invasivespecies.wa.gov

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Washington Invasive Species Council