



## Yachats Weed of the Month – September 2019

### Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus discolor*)

Himalayan blackberry goes by various of scientific names, including *R. discolor*, *R. armeniacus* and *R. bifrons*, but they all boil down to one thing – a highly invasive plant that has colonized much of our region. It will need no introduction to anyone who has spent more than a few hours driving around the Oregon coast.

**Impact:** Himalayan blackberry displaces native plants (including native blackberry), obstructs water flow in streams and irrigation ditches, and inhibits recreational activities. Blackberry enjoys the high rainfall of the Oregon coast. It quickly colonizes disturbed areas such as roadsides and cleared lots. One square yard of blackberry thicket can produce 10,000 seeds each season. Birds and animals can disperse these seeds over long distances.

**Identification:** Left unchecked, blackberry forms dense, impenetrable thickets. The long, robust canes, sharp spines, white to pink flowers that appear in the summer and the edible black berries all serve to make it easily recognizable.

**Management:** Blackberry thickets can be controlled by cutting back the stems and then digging the plants out by the roots. Spring is the best time of year to do this, while the soil is still moist and easier to dig. The initial removal should be followed up regularly for several years to deal with new plantlets and sprouts from residual root fragments. Although herbicide treatment can be effective, the city of Yachats discourages this approach. Thanks to the ongoing efforts of the Yachats Trails crew, substantial areas of the Commons Wetland Park have been reclaimed from blackberry.

**Contact information:** Call Wally at 541 547 5474 if you have any questions. For more information about invasive weeds in Yachats, go to [www.yachatstrails.org](http://www.yachatstrails.org)

Yachats “Weed of the Month” is an informational service of the Yachats Trails Committee and YIPS! - the Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee.

