

PEMBERTON'S MOST WANTED



L. Scott

Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*)

**REPORT ALL SIGHTINGS: 604-698-8334
SSISC.CA/REPORT**

WANTED FOR

- ◆ Limiting the movement of humans and wildlife with dense thickets.
- ◆ Taking over stream banks and channels.
- ◆ Outcompeting deep-rooted shrubs and trees that would normally stabilize banks and prevent flooding.

LAST SEEN

- ◆ At a handful of locations in Pemberton and Mt. Currie, on private property and public lands.
- ◆ Thrives in disturbed soil along roadsides, ditches, and forest edges.
- ◆ Not to be confused with our native species: Trailing Blackberry, Black Raspberry, Thimbleberry, and Salmonberry.

PEMBERTON'S MOST WANTED

These species have a significant impact on the environment, economy, and human health. Their numbers are low enough that complete eradication from the Pemberton area is still feasible.

Himalayan Blackberry

Rubus armeniacus



- ◆ Small, white-pinkish flowers have five rounded petals. They are arranged in clusters of 5-20.
- ◆ Ripe berries are black, shiny, and hairless. The unripe berries are green or red.



- ◆ The leaves are egg-shaped with 3-5 leaflets and sharp point tips. The underside of the leaves is grey and woolly.



- ◆ Thick cane stems have sharp stiff, red, or green prickles and can grow over 3m tall.
- ◆ The stems are strongly angled and furrowed.
- ◆ The extensive root system can exceed 10m in length and 1m deep.

Why is it invasive?

Himalayan Blackberry is highly adaptable and able to thrive in a variety of conditions. It is highly aggressive and can propagate through stem cuttings, root pieces, root crowns, or cane tips touching the ground. Its berries are also highly favourable to birds and mammals who eat them and disperse the seeds when they move to new locations. Even though Himalayan Blackberry is tasty and very popular with berry pickers it grows quickly and forms dense thickets of thorny bush that impede wildlife access to water bodies and corridors. It quickly outcompetes native plants, reducing biodiversity and limiting pasture and grazing areas. Himalayan Blackberry thrives in moist soil and will replace stream stabilizing plants, which in turn increases bank and stream erosion and degrades fish habitats.

How to remove it:

Himalayan Blackberry should be removed before berries are produced. The roots of the plant must be dug out completely to prevent regrowth from the roots. If root removal is not possible, the biomass of the plant can be reduced by mowing frequently throughout the year. Herbicides can provide effective control for this species, but are generally not recommended because of the food value of the fruit of this species. Post-control, restoration with native plantings is recommended. Contact SSISC for information.

Do your part to prevent the spread!

- ◆ Learn how to identify Himalayan Blackberry, visit: ssisc.ca/himalayan-blackberry
- ◆ Monitor your property and neighbourhood. Report to SSISC to ssisc.ca/report and immediately control any emerging Blackberry shoots.
- ◆ Do not compost any plant parts.
- ◆ Ensure soil and fill are not contaminated with roots, shoots or seeds
- ◆ Bag or tarp all soil, plants, or plant parts before transporting them for disposal.
- ◆ Clean clothing, animals, tools, and machinery before leaving an infestation.
- ◆ Minimize soil disturbance in areas surrounding infestations.

