Himalayan blackberry

*Rubus bifrons*

**Description**
It was introduced to North America in 1885 as a cultivated crop.

**Habit**
Erect, spreading, or trailing evergreen shrub that gets very large and grows in dense, impenetrable thickets.

**Leaves**
Palmately compound, usually with 5 leaflets, but sometimes 3 on younger growth. Leaflets are unequally, coarsely toothed, and round to broadly oblong with an abrupt tip at the apex. Green above with white-felt or silverish hue underneath. Undersides of leaf margins have a row of thorns.

**Stems**
Erect and arching, tips root when they come in

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contact with the soil. Reddish in color and strongly angular with large, hooked thorns.

Mature canes are glabrous and die back each year but remain standing through winter.

**Flowers**

White to pinkish in color, 5 petals with numerous stamens, and borne in large terminal clusters.

**Fruits and Seeds**

Fruits are dry and red when immature, turning to large, shiny berries, deep purple to black when mature in fall. Fruits are edible. Berries persist into winter.

**Habitat**

Native to western Europe. Found in areas of full sun but is also shade tolerant, flooding and drought resistant, and adaptable to a variety of open and wooded habitats, wetlands, riparian areas, old fields and disturbed sites.

**Reproduction**

By seed, vegetatively through rhizomes, and by tip-rooting (tips of canes root upon contact with ground).

**Similar**

Common high-bush blackberry (Rubus allegheniensis).

**Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Dig out plants with a shovel, making sure to remove entire root mass. Mowing is effective but will not
kill plants. Cover infested areas with black landscape fabric for at least 2 growing seasons. Apply foliar spray with glyphosate in fall and use selective broadleaf herbicides in open areas.

Credits

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