

Knotweed

Himalayan knotweed (*Fallopia polystachyum*)
Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)
Giant knotweed (*Fallopia sachalinensis*)



Identification: Knotweed forms dense clumps that crowd out all other vegetation, particularly in damp areas such as riverbanks and seepages. Knotweed is present in numerous places on the Yachats River and in Yachats.

Knotweeds are easily recognized by their showy white/cream flowers, which appear in late summer. The plant stems, up to 10 feet tall, are bamboo-like in appearance. Japanese knotweed leaves are square at the base (above right); Himalayan knotweed has more elongated leaves (pictured under text).

Removal: Eradication is difficult, requiring great effort and persistence. **Don't cut or mow knotweed**, this worsens the problem. Small patches can be treated by digging up the entire root and its runners, and then regularly removing the new growths and roots that are sure to appear. Do NOT compost these plants. The plants and roots should be dried and bagged for disposal.

Suggested Action: Call Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District (541.265.2631) for assistance in tackling knotweed.

Blackberry

Himalayan or Armenian blackberry
(*Rubus armeniacus*, syn. *Rubus discolor*,
Rubus procerus)



Identification: Himalayan blackberry is abundant in the Yachats area, forming dense thickets in damp spots and in disturbed areas such as roadsides and trails. It spreads readily by seeds, root sprouts and cane tips.

Blackberry thickets have long, curving canes and can form mounds as high as 8 feet. The canes have sharp thorns, the leaves are dark green and oval shaped. White to pink flowers appear in summer and yield edible black berries.

Removal: Mechanical or hand removal of the plant and its roots is the most successful method. Follow up regularly for 2-3 years, removing resprouts and their roots as soon as they appear.

Suggested Action: Remove small plants, roots and all. Cut back major infestations of blackberry a little at a time, working from the perimeter. Dig out roots as you go.

Managing Invasive Weeds

Eliminating even the most aggressive invasive plant is possible with time and patience. **Hand or mechanical removal (roots and all) is the preferred first step.** Weed wrenches (a tool for pulling big roots such as blackberry and broom) are available on loan from the City of Yachats. **Chemical sprays are strongly discouraged** because they are indiscriminate in their effects, cannot be contained, and can cause extreme health issues. If chemical use is unavoidable, you are urged to be a good neighbor and notify the City at least 2 weeks before applying chemicals, so that neighbors can be advised to take precautions.

To ensure success in reclaiming habitat, initial removal of the plant (roots and all) must be followed by 1 to 3 years of **monitoring, removing re-growth** as soon as possible, and **planting habitat-friendly plants** at the infested site. Refer to the supplement accompanying this brochure or follow the "resource" link on the website below for a partial list of habitat-friendly plants suitable to the Yachats climate.

The task may seem a bit daunting, but if you start in a small area, get control and then expand the area, you'll have success. Patience, vigilance and persistence will win!

Take Back Habitat!

For more information, advice or assistance, contact:

City of Yachats
541.547.3565

Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District
541.265.2631

Or view the noxious weed information & links at:
www.yachats.info/resource/noxious_weeds.htm

Invasive Weeds Yachats' Most Wanted

DEAD!

Invasive weeds threaten the survival of the Yachats' natural environment. Over 30 species of these weeds have been identified in our area. Their ability to rapidly spread, out-compete other plants, and dominate the areas they occupy, significantly impacts the ecosystem.



HELP! This brochure provides information on 6 of the most abundant invasive weeds in our community. We are asking for YOUR HELP in supporting efforts to **Take Back Habitat!** by manually removing these invasives and replacing them with habitat-friendly native and ornamental plants.

A supplement to this brochure provides information on other invasive plants that crowd native plants and other wildlife, along with a partial list of habitat-friendly alternatives.

We know it's a big task and a seemingly impossible vision. A problem decades in the making cannot be fixed overnight. But with your help we can push back little by little, and in 5 years we will have made major strides. We'll have more native and harmonious plants, we'll have more song birds, and we'll have a healthier, more sustainable community benefiting all life.

Broom

Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)
French broom (*Genista monspessulana*)
Spanish broom (*Spartium junceum*)



Photos courtesy of © Eric Coombs
Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

Identification: Broom is a problem throughout Oregon. It invades various habitats including disturbed areas such as cleared plots and roadsides. Broom plants produce large quantities of seed which can remain viable for 50 years. Seeds and flowers are toxic to humans and livestock. Brooms are highly flammable.

The shrubs grow up to 6 feet tall with small green leaves. Flowers are usually bright yellow but may have varying amounts of red or brown tones. The flowers and seedpods are shaped like those of pea plants. Stands of broom are unmistakable when in flower.

Removal: Easiest when soils are moist, hand-pull small plants and roots, being sure to bag and safely dispose of the plants in order to minimize new colonization. Weed wrenches (available on loan from the City) can make successful removal of broom roots much easier.

Suggested Action: All broom should be eradicated and disposed of in a manner to inhibit new infestations. Replacement plantings of habitat-friendly plants will help impede new

Ivy

English ivy (*Hedera helix*)
Atlantic or Irish ivy (*Hedera hibernica*)



Identification: Juvenile ivy is a ground creeper with 3-lobed leaves. The adult reproductive form has erect stems with diamond shaped leaves. English ivy can dominate landscapes and will climb, smother and kill tall trees. Ivy is abundant all over Yachats.

Removal: Hand and mechanical removal, including roots and stems, is best. Wear gloves as the sap may cause a skin reaction. Carry out regular re-treat operations, as the plants regrow from surface and underground stem fragments. Ivy vines in trees should be cut at shoulder height and again at ground level. The ivy vines in trees will then deteriorate. Clear out traces of ivy in the soil around the tree to a distance of 5 feet.

Suggested Action: Eradicate all ivy from trees. Ground infestations should be tackled with patience. Hand-pull roots and stems from an area, bag and safely dispose of the plants. When new sprouts arise, pull roots and stems and dispose, reclaiming additional habitat with each new effort.

Clematis

Old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*)



Photos courtesy of © Tom Forney
Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

Identification: *Clematis vitalba* invades moist forests, especially along riverbanks and near urban areas. It grows as a vine, up to 100 feet long, which can climb and smother tall trees. *Clematis* remnants can be seen along Yachats River Road, close to Highway 101, in trees and at the quarry. *Clematis* has small white flowers and feathery seeds that are easily dispersed.

Removal: Seedlings can be hand-pulled. Bigger plants should be cut at the base of the vine before seeds are set. Stems of small plants may also be pulled in winter when they are brittle.

Suggested Action: Eradicate all *Clematis vitalba* from trees. Do not grow or otherwise cultivate *clematis* unless you are sure it is a non-invasive variety.

Bindweed

Hedge bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*)



Identification: Hedge bindweed (also called morning glory) is a perennial that blooms from June to September. The stems are up to 12 feet long and can form dense tangled mats as they intertwine with any and all vegetation they encounter. Leaves are shaped like an arrowhead, about 2-4 inches long. The flowers are bell or trumpet shaped, white to pinkish and 2-3 inches in diameter. In the Yachats area bindweed is widespread and often grows in conjunction with infestations of blackberry.

Removal: Digging the plants out by the roots is more effective than hand pulling. Either way, the process should be repeated at least three times a year (early growing season, mid-summer and late summer) for at least three growing seasons. Don't try to compost any plant parts containing roots. Bag them for disposal.

Suggested Action: Remove all hedge bindweed.