



FACT SHEET: YELLOW HIMALAYAN RASPBERRY

Yellow Himalayan Raspberry

Rubus ellipticus Sm.

Rose family (Rosaceae)

NATIVE RANGE

Southern Asia (India, Sri Lanka, Burma, Tropical China, and the Philippines)

DESCRIPTION

Himalayan raspberry is a stout evergreen shrub with prickly stems about 12 feet long. Its thick leaves are about 3-4 inches long and 2-3 inches wide, divided into three roughly equal "fingers" with toothed leaf margins and inch-long leaf stalks that are densely covered with prickles. The flowers of yellow Himalayan raspberry are white and occur in short, terminal panicles. The fruit is yellow, edible and highly sought after.

ECOLOGICAL THREAT

Where it becomes established, yellow Himalayan raspberry forms impenetrable thickets, threatening native lowland wet forests and displacing native Hawaiian plant species, including a native Hawaiian raspberry (*Rubus hawaiiensis*).



DISTRIBUTION IN THE UNITED STATES

In Hawaii, yellow Himalayan raspberry invades wet forest habitats at elevations between about 2000 and 5000 feet that have been disturbed by feral pigs.

HABITAT IN THE UNITED STATES

Yellow Himalayan raspberry is usually found in moist to wet forests. This species is well adapted to the full sun of open canopy forests and pastures as well as the deep shade of rain forests.

BACKGROUND

Yellow Himalayan raspberry was introduced to Hawaii for its edible fruit around 1960. It is widely grown as an ornamental in tropical climates.

BIOLOGY & SPREAD

Yellow Himalayan raspberry spreads rapidly by root suckers and regenerates from underground shoots after fire or cutting. Its seeds are dispersed by fruit-eating birds and mammals.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

If cleared by physical means, the roots of yellow Himalayan raspberry must be grubbed out and burned. Alternatively, cut stumps may be treated with systemic herbicides such as glyphosate that kill the plant from the roots.

USE PESTICIDES WISELY: Always read the entire pesticide label carefully, follow all mixing and application instructions and wear all recommended personal protective gear and clothing. Contact your state department of agriculture for any additional pesticide use requirements, restrictions or recommendations.

NOTICE: mention of pesticide products on this page does not constitute endorsement of any material.

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE PLANTS

An alternative to the invasive yellow Himalayan raspberry is the native Hawaiian raspberry (*Rubus hawaiiensis*), which produces an exceptionally large, edible fruit and is free of thorns or prickles. This native raspberry was once common in the moist forests of Hawaii and its fruit was frequently collected by local people. Many other native plants are available for use in ecosystem restoration projects.

OTHER LINKS

- http://www.hear.org/starr/hiplants/images/thumbnails/html/rubus_ellipticus.htm

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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Swearingen, J. 2009. WeedUS Database of Plants Invading Natural Areas in the United States: Yellow Himalayan (*Rubus ellipticus*). <http://www.invasive.org/weedus/subject.html?sub=14094>.

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