

Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*)

Also called: Armenian blackberry, *Rubus discolor*

Family name: Rose (Rosaceae)

Native range: Southwest Asia

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 0- Absent or very rare. It is *moderately threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

General description:

- Deciduous to evergreen, to 13'
- Spreading shrub, grows in dense thickets
- Reddish stems with heavy, reddish, recurved thorns
- Thorns are well-spaced with a wide base
- Stems erect when young, arch to the ground as they age



Leaves:

- Alternate, palmately compound
- Main stems have 5 leaflets- 2.5"-7.9" long; side shoots bear smaller leaves with 3 leaflets
- Dark green above, whitish below
- Rounded to oblong, sharply toothed leaflets
- Curved thorns on leaf stem & midrib



5 large leaflets on main stems; 3 small leaflets on side shoots



Flowers:

- Showy, ~1" across
- White to pink with 5 petals
- Born in clusters of 3-20
- Blooms late spring-early summer



Fruit:

- Juicy black berry, ~1" long
- Fruit is an aggregate (many tiny fruits)
- Adheres to central core when removed
- Berry is red when it is immature
- Typically ripens late compared with native blackberries (late summer to fall)

Habitat:

- Disturbed areas such as fields, roadsides, riparian areas
- Prefers moist soils, shade intolerant

Commercial Availability: Yes

Look-alikes:

Blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*)

NOTE: Himalayan and native blackberries are very difficult to distinguish.

- Native shrub, to 8'
- Leaves have 5 leaflets- dark green above and pale below, 3"-5" long, less sharply toothed
- Straight thorns on stem, hooked prickles on leaf stem
- Black berry, ~1" long
- Berry adheres to central core when removed
- Reddish brown stems that darken with age, large hooked thorns



R. allegheniensis has a deeply grooved stem

Black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*)

- Native shrub, 6'-9'
- Black berry is 0.5"
- Berry separates from central core
- Less showy flower
- Reddish stems with a white bloom
- Leaves have 5 leaflets; flowering stems have 3 leaflets

R. occidentalis has smaller flowers & berries

