

# WEED OF THE WEEK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY KAUA'I COMMUNITY RADIO & KAUA'I INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

WEEK NINETEEN, OCTOBER 29, 2008

## HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY

*Rubus discolor*



**Description:** Sprawling shrub with leaves that are roundish & toothed, growing in sets of 3 or 5. Has thorny stems & white flowers. Berries begin as red & become black as they ripen.

**Native Range:** Western Europe

**Distribution:** Not yet known on Kaua'i! Found on Big Island, O'ahu, & Maui. Field crews & landowners are working to control.

**Weed Risk Assessment Score:** 24-VERY HIGH RISK

## INVASIVE INFO

- Can **invade areas up to 6000 feet elevation** (all of Kaua'i), & survives in acidic & alkaline soils
- **Thrives in wet areas**, where many of our most treasured native ecosystems are found
- Forms **dense thickets** in pastures, forests, and stream areas
- **Takes over the understory** of a forest, competing with other native species like ferns & preventing regeneration of native trees
- On KISC's **Early Detection** list as one of the weeds to immediately remove if found on Kaua'i
- Its **seeds are easily dispersed** by birds, pigs, & down streams & can remain dormant for several years
- On DOFAW's list of "**Most Invasive Horticultural Invasive Species to Avoid Planting**"
- Can reach heights of 4 feet, causing an **impenetrable bramble**

If you see Himalayan Blackberry on Kaua'i,

**CALL 643-PEST!**