



shade our streams

A CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL PROJECT



Himalayan Blackberry

Reed Canary Grass



Scotch Broom

Japanese Knotweed



English Ivy

Why Remove Invasive Plants?

In order to plant streambanks with native species, the Shade Our Streams project will likely need to get rid of aggressive invasive weeds first. Invasive species are not ideal for your property for many reasons.

- **They just keep growing... and growing.** Many non-native species do not have natural predators, such as insects and disease. They also grow more rapidly than some native species. This makes them very difficult to control, and expensive to remove on your own. Shade Our Streams can perform this difficult work at no cost to you.
- **They don't provide native habitats.** Oregon's wildlife is dependent on certain native trees and shrubs for food and shelter. Non-native species may not provide those functions.
- **They're not friendly neighbors.** Because invasive weeds are so aggressive, they have a tendency to take over areas completely. In a healthy ecosystem, different species of trees and shrubs perform different functions. Roots are established at different levels in the soil, holding it in place, while leaves and fruits are accessible for a variety of birds and wildlife. When an area is taken over by one type of plant, this delicate balance is thrown off.

How will CRBC get rid of the weeds?

The Clackamas River Basin Council has a long history and plenty of experience battling invasive species in our watershed, and is eager to put that knowledge to work for you through the Shade Our Streams project.

Target species in the streamside buffer area will be removed using a variety of treatments. Methods for removal include cutting, mowing, and herbicide application. We'll always contact you prior to scheduling activities, and time them to occur at the optimum point in the plant's life cycle. We'll monitor any re-growth each year, and re-treat as necessary.



Buffers of
blackberry
like this
are no
match for
Shade Our
Streams!

Contact us

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Did you know...?

Facts about invasive weeds

- Himalayan blackberry canes can grow up to 20 feet in one growing season.
- Japanese knotweed can create new plants from roots, or from being cut into pieces. If pieces of knotweed are washed downstream, they can create new stands of the plants when they wash ashore.
- Reed canary grass grows so thickly it can lower water levels in small creeks.
- The seeds of the Scotch broom plant can stay viable for up to 75 years, and are resistant to fire and flooding.
- The roots of English ivy are powerful enough to cause structural damage to buildings. The plant itself can grow so heavy on a tree trunk that it can pull over a mature tree and kill it.
- Butterfly bush can produce thousands of seeds each year, allowing the plant to take over large areas at a time.
- False brome can be toxic to livestock.
- The dense root system of purple loosestrife can form a mat excluding wildlife from wetland soils.
- Garlic mustard takes over the habitat of native wildflowers.
- Clematis (old man's beard) can grow up to six feet per year, strangling trees and shrubs.