

# NEW YORK NON-NATIVE PLANT INVASIVENESS RANKING FORM

Scientific name: Rubus bifrons Vest. ex Tratt. (R. armeniacus Focke; R. discolor Weihe & Nees, R. fruticosus exclusive of its type as per USDA) USDA Plants Code: RUAR9, RUBI

Common names: Himalayan blackberry

Native distribution: Eurasia

Date assessed: August 5, 2009

Assessors: Gerry Moore

Reviewers: LIISMA SRC

Date Approved: 19 Aug 2009 Form version date: 10 July 2009

**New York Invasiveness Rank:** Moderate (Relative Maximum Score 50.00-69.99)

<b>Distribution and Invasiveness Rank</b> (Obtain from PRISM invasiveness ranking form)		
Status of this species in each PRISM:	Current Distribution	PRISM Invasiveness Rank
1 Adirondack Park Invasive Program	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
2 Capital/Mohawk	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
3 Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
4 Finger Lakes	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
5 Long Island Invasive Species Management Area	Restricted	Moderate
6 Lower Hudson	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
7 Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
8 Western New York	Not Assessed	Not Assessed

<b>Invasiveness Ranking Summary</b> (see details under appropriate sub-section)		Total (Total Answered*) Possible	Total
1	Ecological impact	40 ( <u>30</u> )	9
2	Biological characteristic and dispersal ability	25 ( <u>25</u> )	23
3	Ecological amplitude and distribution	25 ( <u>25</u> )	15
4	Difficulty of control	10 ( <u>10</u> )	4
	Outcome score	100 ( <u>90</u> ) <sup>b</sup>	51 <sup>a</sup>
	Relative maximum score <sup>†</sup>		56.67
	New York Invasiveness Rank <sup>§</sup>	Moderate (Relative Maximum Score 50.00-69.99)	

\* For questions answered "unknown" do not include point value in "Total Answered Points Possible." If "Total Answered Points Possible" is less than 70.00 points, then the overall invasive rank should be listed as "Unknown."

<sup>†</sup> Calculated as 100(a/b) to two decimal places.

<sup>§</sup> Very High >80.00; High 70.00–80.00; Moderate 50.00–69.99; Low 40.00–49.99; Insignificant <40.00

Not Assessable: not persistent in NY, or not found outside of cultivation.

## A. DISTRIBUTION (KNOWN/POTENTIAL): Summarized from individual PRISM forms

A1.1. Has this species been documented to persist without cultivation in NY? (reliable source; voucher not required)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes – continue to A1.2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	No – continue to A2.1	
A1.2. In which PRISMs is it known (see inset map)?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adirondack Park Invasive Program	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Capital/Mohawk	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finger Lakes	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Long Island Invasive Species Management Area	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lower Hudson	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Western New York	

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**Documentation:**

Sources of information:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2009.

A2.1. What is the likelihood that this species will occur and persist outside of cultivation, given the climate in the following PRISMs? (obtain from PRISM invasiveness ranking form)

Not Assessed	Adirondack Park Invasive Program
Not Assessed	Capital/Mohawk
Not Assessed	Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership
Not Assessed	Finger Lakes
Very Likely	Long Island Invasive Species Management Area
Not Assessed	Lower Hudson
Not Assessed	Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario
Not Assessed	Western New York

**Documentation:** This assessment covers all *Rubus* in our area that belong to *Rubus* L. subg. *Rubus* sect. *Rubus*. This group comprises most of the Old World blackberries, including *R. fruticosus* well known in Europe. In the U.S., this material has commonly gone under the names, *R. armeniacus*, *R. bifrons*, and *R. discolor*. These differ from our native blackberries in having whitish to grayish leaf undersides, flowers that are often pink or pinkish to red (but also sometimes white), and large branching inflorescences. This assessment does not cover a *Rubus* that is spreading in the Northeast (and elsewhere such as the South) with traits similar to this section but also similar to material in the native *Rubus* sect. *Cuneifolii*. This material is the source of current investigations regarding its identity, origins, and source. It may require a separate assessment in the future once it is properly identified.

Sources of information (e.g.: distribution models, literature, expert opinions):

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2009.

***If the species does not occur and is not likely to occur in any of the PRISMs, then stop here as there is no need to assess the species. Rank is "Not Assessable."***

A2.2. What is the current distribution of the species in each PRISM? (obtain rank from PRISM invasiveness ranking forms)

	Distribution
Adirondack Park Invasive Program	Not Assessed
Capital/Mohawk	Not Assessed
Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership	Not Assessed
Finger Lakes	Not Assessed
Long Island Invasive Species Management Area	Restricted
Lower Hudson	Not Assessed
Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario	Not Assessed
Western New York	Not Assessed

**Documentation:**

Sources of information:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2009.

A2.3. Describe the potential or known suitable habitats within New York. Natural habitats include all habitats not under active human management. Managed habitats are indicated with an asterisk.

<p><b>Aquatic Habitats</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Salt/brackish waters</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater tidal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rivers/streams</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Natural lakes and ponds</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Vernal pools</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reservoirs/impoundments*</p>	<p><b>Wetland Habitats</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Salt/brackish marshes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater marshes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Peatlands</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Shrub swamps</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Forested wetlands/riparian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ditches*</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beaches and/or coastal dunes</p>	<p><b>Upland Habitats</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultivated*</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grasslands/old fields</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Shrublands</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forests/woodlands</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Alpine</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roadsides*</p>
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Other potential or known suitable habitats within New York:

In the West it has been reported from riparian habitats, but this note noted in the Northeast.

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**Documentation:**

Sources of information:

Tirmenstein, 1989; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2009; author's pers. obs.

**B. INVASIVENESS RANKING**

Questions apply to areas similar in climate and habitats to New York unless specified otherwise.

*1. ECOLOGICAL IMPACT*

1.1. Impact on Natural Ecosystem Processes and System-Wide Parameters (e.g. fire regime, geomorphological changes (erosion, sedimentation rates), hydrologic regime, nutrient and mineral dynamics, light availability, salinity, pH)

- A. No perceivable impact on ecosystem processes based on research studies, or the absence of impact information if a species is widespread (>10 occurrences in minimally managed areas), has been well-studied (>10 reports/publications), and has been present in the northeast for >100 years. 0
- B. Influences ecosystem processes to a minor degree (e.g., has a perceivable but mild influence on soil nutrient availability) 3
- C. Significant alteration of ecosystem processes (e.g., increases sedimentation rates along streams or coastlines, reduces open water that are important to waterfowl) 7
- D. Major, possibly irreversible, alteration or disruption of ecosystem processes (e.g., the species alters geomorphology and/or hydrology, affects fire frequency, alters soil pH, or fixes substantial levels of nitrogen in the soil making soil unlikely to support certain native plants or more likely to favor non-native species) 10
- U. Unknown

Score 

U
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**Documentation:**

Identify ecosystem processes impacted (or if applicable, justify choosing answer A in the absence of impact information)

Studies not known on the species' impacts on natural ecosystem processes and system wide parameters. One study in the Pacific Northwest (McDowell, 2002) that included this species complex showed it to have greater "leaf-level photosynthetic capacity and resource-use efficiency" than native, noninvasive *Rubus* species. The study also found "using discriminant analysis, these photosynthetic characteristics were found to be powerful in distinguishing between the invasive and noninvasive *Rubus*. Amax and A/E were identified as the most useful variables for distinguishing between the species, and therefore, may be important factors contributing to the success of these invasive species." However, this study was done using material in the Northwest where this species complex is known to be strongly invasive. It is not known if the material in our region possesses this ability. Given the taxonomic complexities of the group, it seem inappropriate to conclude that our local material does possess these traits.

Sources of information:

McDowell, 2002; author's pers. comm.

1.2. Impact on Natural Community Structure

- A. No perceived impact; establishes in an existing layer without influencing its structure 0
- B. Influences structure in one layer (e.g., changes the density of one layer) 3
- C. Significant impact in at least one layer (e.g., creation of a new layer or elimination of an existing layer) 7
- D. Major alteration of structure (e.g., covers canopy, eradicating most or all layers below) 10
- U. Unknown

Score 

3
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<b>Documentation:</b> Identify type of impact or alteration: Patches of this bramble influence the structure in the low shrub layer, increasing its density. Sources of information: Alice et al, in prep.; author's pers. obs.	
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**1.3. Impact on Natural Community Composition**

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| A. No perceived impact; causes no apparent change in native populations  | 0  |
| B. Influences community composition (e.g., reduces the number of individuals in one or more native species in the community)   | 3  |
| C. Significantly alters community composition (e.g., produces a significant reduction in the population size of one or more native species in the community)   | 7  |
| D. Causes major alteration in community composition (e.g., results in the extirpation of one or several native species, reducing biodiversity or change the community composition towards species exotic to the natural community) | 10 |
| U. Unknown   |    |

Score 3

<b>Documentation:</b> Identify type of impact or alteration: Patches of this bramble can displace native species in the area. Sources of information: Author's pers. obs.	
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**1.4. Impact on other species or species groups (cumulative impact of this species on the animals, fungi, microbes, and other organisms in the community it invades. Examples include reduction in nesting/foraging sites; reduction in habitat connectivity; injurious components such as spines, thorns, burrs, toxins; suppresses soil/sediment microflora; interferes with native pollinators and/or pollination of a native species; hybridizes with a native species; hosts a non-native disease which impacts a native species)**

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| A. Negligible perceived impact                      | 0  |
| B. Minor impact                                     | 3  |
| C. Moderate impact                                  | 7  |
| D. Severe impact on other species or species groups | 10 |
| U. Unknown  |    |

Score 3

<b>Documentation:</b> Identify type of impact or alteration: Plant is exceptionally prickly. Further research is needed to determine if material from Rubus sect. Rubus is hybridizing with material from our native Rubus sections. If so, this would warrant a higher score. Sources of information: Alice et al., in prep.; author's pers. obs.	
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Total Possible	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 10px;">30</span>
Section One Total	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 10px;">9</span>

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**2. BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND DISPERSAL ABILITY**

**2.1. Mode and rate of reproduction**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| A. No reproduction by seeds or vegetative propagules (i.e. plant sterile with no sexual or asexual reproduction).  | 0 |
| B. Limited reproduction (fewer than 10 viable seeds per plant AND no vegetative reproduction; if viability is not known, then maximum seed production is less than 100 seeds per plant and no vegetative reproduction) | 1 |

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- C. Moderate reproduction (fewer than 100 viable seeds per plant - if viability is not known, then maximum seed production is less than 1000 seeds per plant - OR limited successful vegetative spread documented) 2
- D. Abundant reproduction with vegetative asexual spread documented as one of the plants prime reproductive means OR more than 100 viable seeds per plant (if viability is not known, then maximum seed production reported to be greater than 1000 seeds per plant.) 4
- U. Unknown

Score 

4
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**Documentation:**

Describe key reproductive characteristics (including seeds per plant):  
Plants produces copious fruit with copious seed (1000s per plant); sprouting can also occur from canes.

Sources of information:

Amor, 1974; author's pers. obs.

**2.2. Innate potential for long-distance dispersal (e.g. bird dispersal, sticks to animal hair, buoyant fruits, pappus for wind-dispersal)**

- A. Does not occur (no long-distance dispersal mechanisms) 0
- B. Infrequent or inefficient long-distance dispersal (occurs occasionally despite lack of adaptations) 1
- C. Moderate opportunities for long-distance dispersal (adaptations exist for long-distance dispersal, but studies report that 95% of seeds land within 100 meters of the parent plant) 2
- D. Numerous opportunities for long-distance dispersal (adaptations exist for long-distance dispersal and evidence that many seeds disperse greater than 100 meters from the parent plant) 4
- U. Unknown

Score 

4
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**Documentation:**

Identify dispersal mechanisms:  
Rubus fruits are readily taken and dispersed by birds; also small mammals.

Sources of information:

Amor, 1974; Alice et al., in prep.; author's pers. obs.

**2.3. Potential to be spread by human activities (both directly and indirectly – possible mechanisms include: commercial sales, use as forage/revegetation, spread along highways, transport on boats, contaminated compost, land and vegetation management equipment such as mowers and excavators, etc.)**

- A. Does not occur 0
- B. Low (human dispersal to new areas occurs almost exclusively by direct means and is infrequent or inefficient) 1
- C. Moderate (human dispersal to new areas occurs by direct and indirect means to a moderate extent) 2
- D. High (opportunities for human dispersal to new areas by direct and indirect means are numerous, frequent, and successful) 3
- U. Unknown

Score 

2
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**Documentation:**

Identify dispersal mechanisms:  
Species is known to be cultivated and can escape. This blackberry group is not currently used in commercial cultivation, however.

Sources of information:

Alice et al., in prep.; author's pers. obs.

**2.4. Characteristics that increase competitive advantage, such as shade tolerance, ability to grow on infertile soils, perennial habit, fast growth, nitrogen fixation,**

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allelopathy, etc.

- A. Possesses no characteristics that increase competitive advantage 0
- B. Possesses one characteristic that increases competitive advantage 3
- C. Possesses two or more characteristics that increase competitive advantage 6
- U. Unknown

Score 6

**Documentation:**

Evidence of competitive ability:  
Perennial, able to grow on nutrient poor soils.  
Sources of information:  
Alice et al., in prep.; author's pers. obs.

**2.5. Growth vigor**

- A. Does not form thickets or have a climbing or smothering growth habit 0
- B. Has climbing or smothering growth habit, forms a dense layer above shorter vegetation, forms dense thickets, or forms a dense floating mat in aquatic systems where it smothers other vegetation or organisms 2
- U. Unknown

Score 2

**Documentation:**

Describe growth form:  
Plant can form thickets; it can also exhibit a smothering habit.  
Sources of information:  
Alice et al., in prep; author's pers. obs.

**2.6. Germination/Regeneration**

- A. Requires open soil or water and disturbance for seed germination, or regeneration from vegetative propagules. 0
- B. Can germinate/regenerate in vegetated areas but in a narrow range or in special conditions 2
- C. Can germinate/regenerate in existing vegetation in a wide range of conditions 3
- U. Unknown (No studies have been completed)

Score 2

**Documentation:**

Describe germination requirements:  
Author has only observed seedlings in open areas.  
Sources of information:  
Author's pers. obs.

**2.7. Other species in the genus invasive in New York or elsewhere**

- A. No 0
- B. Yes 3
- U. Unknown

Score 3

**Documentation:**

Species:  
Rubus phoenicolasius ranked as "Very High" by SRC for NY. Rubus laciniatus also occurs but was ranked as "Moderate" invasive by SRC for NY.

Total Possible 25  
Section Two Total 23

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**3. ECOLOGICAL AMPLITUDE AND DISTRIBUTION**

3.1. Density of stands in natural areas in the northeastern USA and eastern Canada (use same definition as Gleason & Cronquist which is: "The part of the United States

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covered extends from the Atlantic Ocean west to the western boundaries of Minnesota, Iowa, northern Missouri, and southern Illinois, south to the southern boundaries of Virginia, Kentucky, and Illinois, and south to the Missouri River in Missouri. In Canada the area covered includes Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and parts of Quebec and Ontario lying south of the 47th parallel of latitude”)

- A. No large stands (no areas greater than 1/4 acre or 1000 square meters) 0
- B. Large dense stands present in areas with numerous invasive species already present or disturbed landscapes 2
- C. Large dense stands present in areas with few other invasive species present (i.e. ability to invade relatively pristine natural areas) 4
- U. Unknown

Score

**Documentation:**

Identify reason for selection, or evidence of weedy history:  
 Author has not observed stands larger than 0.25 acre for New York or elsewhere in the Northeast. In the West this species is a serious problem and does form large stands.  
 Sources of information:  
 Hoshovsky, 1989; Alice et al., in prep.; author's pers. obs.

**3.2. Number of habitats the species may invade**

- A. Not known to invade any natural habitats given at A2.3 0
- B. Known to occur in one natural habitat given at A2.3 1
- C. Known to occur in two natural habitats given at A2.3 2
- D. Known to occur in three natural habitat given at A2.3 4
- E. Known to occur in four or more natural habitats given at A2.3 6
- U. Unknown

Score

**Documentation:**

Identify type of habitats where it occurs and degree/type of impacts:  
 See A 2.3.  
 Sources of information:  
 Alice et al., in prep.; author's pers. obs.

**3.3. Role of disturbance in establishment**

- A. Requires anthropogenic disturbances to establish. 0
- B. May occasionally establish in undisturbed areas but can readily establish in areas with natural or anthropogenic disturbances. 2
- C. Can establish independent of any known natural or anthropogenic disturbances. 4
- U. Unknown

Score

**Documentation:**

Identify type of disturbance:  
 Like almost all Rubus, always found in disturbed areas; not known to require anthropogenic disturbance.  
 Sources of information:  
 Alice et al., in prep.; Caplain & Yeakley, 2006; author's pers. obs.

**3.4. Climate in native range**

- A. Native range does not include climates similar to New York 0
- B. Native range possibly includes climates similar to at least part of New York. 1
- C. Native range includes climates similar to those in New York 3
- U. Unknown

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Score

**Documentation:**

Describe what part of the native range is similar in climate to New York:

Europe.

Sources of information:

Alice et al., in prep.

3.5. Current introduced distribution in the northeastern USA and eastern Canada (see question 3.1 for definition of geographic scope )

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| A. | Not known from the northeastern US and adjacent Canada  | 0 |
| B. | Present as a non-native in one northeastern USA state and/or eastern Canadian province.   | 1 |
| C. | Present as a non-native in 2 or 3 northeastern USA states and/or eastern Canadian provinces.  | 2 |
| D. | Present as a non-native in 4–8 northeastern USA states and/or eastern Canadian provinces, and/or categorized as a problem weed (e.g., “Noxious” or “Invasive”) in 1 northeastern state or eastern Canadian province.  | 3 |
| E. | Present as a non-native in >8 northeastern USA states and/or eastern Canadian provinces, and/or categorized as a problem weed (e.g., “Noxious” or “Invasive”) in 2 northeastern states or eastern Canadian provinces. | 4 |
| U. | Unknown   |   |

Score

**Documentation:**

Identify states and provinces invaded:

KY, DC, IL, MA, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VA; Ontario

Sources of information: See known introduced range in plants.usda.gov, and update with information from states and Canadian provinces.

U.S.D.A., 2009.

3.6. Current introduced distribution of the species in natural areas in the eight New York State PRISMs (Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management)

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| A. | Present in none of the PRISMs                                      | 0 |
| B. | Present in 1 PRISM   | 1 |
| C. | Present in 2 PRISMs  | 2 |
| D. | Present in 3 PRISMs  | 3 |
| E. | Present in more than 3 PRISMs or on the Federal noxious weed lists | 4 |
| U. | Unknown  |   |

Score

**Documentation:**

Describe distribution:

See A1.1; listed on Federal Noxious weed list as *Rubus fruticosus* exclusive of its type.

Sources of information:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2009; U.S.D.A., GRIN, 2009.

Total Possible	25
Section Three Total	15

**4. DIFFICULTY OF CONTROL**

4.1. Seed banks

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| A. | Seeds (or vegetative propagules) remain viable in soil for less than 1 year, or does not make viable seeds or persistent propagules. | 0 |
|----|--|---|

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- B. Seeds (or vegetative propagules) remain viable in soil for at least 1 to 10 years 2
- C. Seeds (or vegetative propagules) remain viable in soil for more than 10 years 3
- U. Unknown

Score 

2
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**Documentation:**  
 Identify longevity of seed bank:  
 Rubus seeds are known to be viable for more than 1 year; viability longer than 10 years not reported.  
 Sources of information:  
 Brinkman, 1974.

**4.2. Vegetative regeneration**

- A. No regrowth following removal of aboveground growth 0
- B. Regrowth from ground-level meristems 1
- C. Regrowth from extensive underground system 2
- D. Any plant part is a viable propagule 3
- U. Unknown

Score 

2
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**Documentation:**  
 Describe vegetative response:  
 Large thickets can readily re sprout from an underground system.  
 Sources of information:  
 Author's pers. obs.

**4.3. Level of effort required**

- A. Management is not required: e.g., species does not persist without repeated anthropogenic disturbance. 0
- B. Management is relatively easy and inexpensive: e.g. 10 or fewer person-hours of manual effort (pulling, cutting and/or digging) can eradicate a 1 acre infestation in 1 year (infestation averages 50% cover or 1 plant/100 ft<sup>2</sup>). 2
- C. Management requires a major short-term investment: e.g. 100 or fewer person-hours/year of manual effort, or up to 10 person-hours/year using mechanical equipment (chain saws, mowers, etc.) for 2-5 years to suppress a 1 acre infestation. Eradication is difficult, but possible (infestation as above). 3
- D. Management requires a major investment: e.g. more than 100 person-hours/year of manual effort, or more than 10 person hours/year using mechanical equipment, or the use of herbicide, grazing animals, fire, etc. for more than 5 years to suppress a 1 acre infestation. Eradication may be impossible (infestation as above). 4
- U. Unknown

Score 

0
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**Documentation:**  
 Identify types of control methods and time-term required:  
 Large thickets would require a major investment. However, large thickets have not been observed in New York, and, at this time, management of this species is not required. See Amor (1973) and Hoshovsky (1989) .  
 Sources of information:  
 Author's pers. obs.

Total Possible 

10
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 Section Four Total 

4
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**Total for 4 sections Possible**

90
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**Total for 4 sections**

51
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**C. STATUS OF CULTIVARS AND HYBRIDS:**

At the present time (May 2008) there is no protocol or criteria for assessing the invasiveness of cultivars independent of the species to which they belong. Such a protocol is needed, and individuals with the appropriate expertise should address this issue in the future. Such a protocol will likely require data on cultivar fertility and identification in both experimental and natural settings.

Hybrids (crosses between different parent species) should be assessed individually and separately from the parent species wherever taxonomically possible, since their invasiveness may differ from that of the parent species. An exception should be made if the taxonomy of the species and hybrids are uncertain, and species and hybrids can not be clearly distinguished in the field. In such cases it is not feasible to distinguish species and hybrids, and they can only be assessed as a single unit.

Some cultivars of the species known to be available:

**References for species assessment:**

Alice, L. A., D. H. Goldman, G. Moore, and J. A. Macklin. in prep. *Rubus* in Flora North America. [to be published in 2010.]

Amor, R.L. 1973. Ecology and control of blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* L. agg.) I. *Rubus* spp. as weeds in Victoria. *Weeds Res.* 13: 218-223.

Amor, R. L. 1974. Ecology and control of blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* L. agg.) II. Reproduction. *Weed Research* 14: 231-238.

Brinkman, K.A. 1974. *Rubus*. In: C.S. Schopmeyer (ed.), *Seeds of woody plants in the U.S. Agriculture Handbook No. 450*. U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, DC.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden. 2009. AILANTHUS database. [Accessed on August 5, 2009].

Caplain, J. S. and J. A. Yeakley. 2006. *Rubus armeniacus* (Himalayan blackberry) occurrence and growth in realtion soils and light conditions in western Oregon. *Northwest Science* 80: 9-17.

Hoshovsky, M.C. 1989. Element Stewardship Abstract for *Rubus discolor* (Himalayan blackberry). The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA. 12 pp.  
<[imapinvasives.org/GIST/ESA/esapages/documnts/rubuarm.PDF](http://imapinvasives.org/GIST/ESA/esapages/documnts/rubuarm.PDF)>

McDowell, S. C. L. 2002. Photosynthetic characteristics of invasive and noninvasive species of *Rubus* (Rosaceae). *American Journal of Botany* 89: 1431-1438.

Starr F., K. Starr, and L.Loope*Rubus discolor*. Himalayan blackberry. Rosaceae. United States Geological Survey--Biological Resources Division. Haleakala Field Station, Maui, Hawai'i. 5 pp.

Tirmenstein, D. 1989. *Rubus discolor*. Fire Effects Information System. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Sciences Laboratory.  
<[fs.fed.us/database/feis](http://fs.fed.us/database/feis)> [Accessed August 5, 2009.]

U.S.D.A. Germplasm Research Information Net work. 2009. GRIN Taxonomy for Plants. *Rubus fruticosus* auct. aggr. <<http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxon.pl?419819>>.

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United States Department of Agriculture, National Resources Conservation Service. 2009. The PLANTS Database. National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana [Accessed on August 5, 2009].

**Citation:** This NY ranking form may be cited as: Jordan, M.J., G. Moore and T.W. Weldy. 2008. Invasiveness ranking system for non-native plants of New York. Unpublished. The Nature Conservancy, Cold Spring Harbor, NY; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, NY; The Nature Conservancy, Albany, NY. Note that the order of authorship is alphabetical; all three authors contributed substantially to the development of this protocol.

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