

Lincoln County's Fall 2024

Vegetation Management



Thank you to all who opted in to join our email list. We anticipate we will send emails only two or three times per each calendar year. We will email again when the 2025 applications and signs become available sometime in January.

You may have noticed there have been a few roads posted for spray application this fall. Typically, this is for follow-up treatment to support the initial treatment for optimal results. Please remove your 2024 signs after November 15th.

Some of our private maintenance permit holders have such well-maintained (manicured) frontages that there is no need to apply for a permit as there is nothing that would be subject to treatment. If you are unsure as to whether this applies to your property, please email Scott Schmale at sschmale@co.lincoln.or.us before submitting a new application. You are still welcome to apply and receive signs if you wish to display them.

Please also note that road frontages containing waterways, bee boxes, animal gathering areas and other sensitive features will be selectively treated to prevent potential contamination. We have many inquiries about these issues and want our residents to know our application is specific and intentional with careful attention to sensitive locations.

Blackberries are our #1 Problem – no surprise here!

Blackberries are our biggest problem in Lincoln County, but we are not alone. Check out this information page from the State of Oregon, particularly the paragraph about the overall impacts to our state:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/Weeds/ArmeniaBlackberryProfile.pdf>

As our weather shifted into the fall pattern, we all know only too well that blackberries continued to send out canes and runners as if they were chasing summer to come back! Blackberries can be cut back significantly at this point in the year so they can be less trouble to clear in the spring.

Best practices for manual control of blackberries include:

- Give entire thicket a serious “buzzcut”, using brush-cutter or pruners.
- Removing canes before flowering in the spring will aid in reducing the seed bank as blackberries are prolific seeders!
- To remove completely, dig out base of each plant whenever possible and pull out all the root system you can find.
- Remove all canes that reach the ground before they start new daughter plants.
- Monitor over the winter months and dig up every small start you see to reduce amount to address in spring. This can be very helpful in taking back control of your property.
- You can place invasive weeds and plants in your “mixed compostables” curbside cart.

Management Tip: If you enjoy having your own blackberries to eat, allow some to grow in an easily accessible area, ideally away from the road to keep berries free from exhaust and other road pollutants. Ever notice a dirty snowbank along the road? Same stuff gets on our blackberries! Decide how much you need to keep for your harvesting needs and get rid of the rest of them so what you have can be managed successfully year after year.

Note that blackberries are problematic in neighboring states also – here’s some interesting information from California’s blackberry page:

<https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7434.html>

Blackberry plants can live for 25 years or longer, however individual canes only live for 2 years. New canes are produced annually from the root crown, replacing those that die. One-year-old canes are entirely vegetative and only produce leaves. The following year the canes will flower, fruit and die.

See next page for additional information on blackberries.

Meet Shiny Geranium –

Our Runner Up in 2nd Place!

The other high level target on our problem list right now is Shiny Geranium, aka Shining Geranium, Shiny-leaf Geranium, or Shining Crane's Bill. Left unchecked, it can grow into huge mats that smother out wildflowers and other perennial plant seedlings.



A primary concern with both Shiny Geranium and Blackberries is that both are moving into our forest areas and causing significant issues with our native plants and our precious ecosystem overall.

You can learn more about Shiny Geranium at this link:

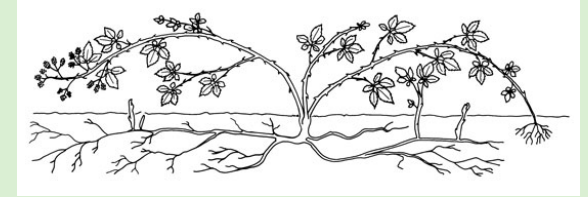
<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/Weeds/ShinyGeraniumProfile.pdf>



Blackberries continued...

Many animals feed on blackberries; consequently, seeds spread easily from one area to another in animal droppings. Blackberry seeds have a hard seed coat and can remain dormant for an extended period. Once seeds germinate and the plants become established, expansion of the thicket is almost entirely a result of vegetative growth. New plants start from crown regrowth, suckers from rhizomes (underground stems), and seeds that germinate in fall and spring. In addition, tips of canes that

*contact the ground often form roots, creating **daughter plants** that contribute to the lateral expansion of the plant. Over time a single plant can cover a very large area.*



Vegetative growth of a blackberry plant from a central crown.

(Illustration from Seventeenth Street Studios)

Your participation in our Private Maintenance Agreement program is sincerely appreciated and every bit you do helps Lincoln County to maintain and protect our county road system. We wish to foster a cooperative effort with our residents to address this ongoing concern along our road frontages. If you have any questions about our program, how to best address a problematic species, or help identifying invasive species, please reach out to our Vegetation Control Coordinator, Scott Schmale, at sschmale@co.lincoln.or.us or by phone at (541)-574-1248.

HAPPY FALL TO ALL!

