



Tom Forney, Oregon Dept. of Ag.

**OTHER COMMON NAMES:** Traveler's joy, evergreen clematis

**DESCRIPTION**

Old man's beard is a perennial, woody, deciduous vine that grows up to thirty yards long. The leaves are opposite and compound, usually with five leaflets. Its small flowers are greenish-white and are found in clusters in the upper leaf axils. During the seeding stage, the flower displays a white, feathery appearance, from which it got its common name. Juvenile vines are ribbed and often purple in color. Older vines are woody, often gray/brown in color, and flake when bent.

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

- large woody vine
- opposite compound leaves
- small greenish white flowers
- flower appears white and feather while seeding

**WHEN TO FIND OLD MAN'S BEARD**

It can be found throughout the year. In the summer, it can be identified by its flowers. In the fall and winter, it can be identified by the fluffy, white seed heads.

**WHERE TO FIND OLD MAN'S BEARD**

It can be found along roadsides, river banks, gardens, hedges, shelter belts, disturbed forest, or forest edges.

**WHAT TO DO**

Please report but do not try to pull old man's beard. Thanks for helping keep this invader out of Camassia!

# Old Man's Beard

## *Clamatis vitalba*

Originally introduced from Europe to the United States as a garden plant, old man's beard is now a pest throughout the Pacific coast states. In Oregon, it is particularly troublesome in the northwestern region of the state. Due to its excellent ability to disperse, it is a likely invader in much of the rest of the state.

Old man's beard reproduces primarily by seed and can self-pollinate. New populations can also establish from rooting stem and vine fragments. Plants mature fastest in full sunlight. Dispersal is primarily achieved by seeds being transported by wind and water, in soil or gravel, or by bee pollination. Vine fragments can also be spread as garden waste that can take root and form new plants.

This creeping vine has the ability to blanket shrubs and trees over 60 feet tall. Once a tree collapses, the plant continues to grow on the ground in layers several feet thick, thus preventing the regeneration of any vegetation beneath it. By killing trees and increasing the amount of dead material in forests, old man's beard destroys food sources for native wildlife. It spreads quickly along river margins and will establish itself in any area not intensively managed or grazed.

**REFERENCE**

The majority of this fact sheet has been adapted from the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Plant Division webpage on Old Man's Beard. <http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/>



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