

North West Regional Best Practice Guide for:

Blackberry



Botanical name: Rubus fruticosus agg.

Common names: Blackberry

Blackberry can severely restrict access in agriculture, conservation and recreational areas. The spread of blackberry is facilitated by the large numbers of seed produced, their attractiveness to dispersal agents and the ease of distribution. Blackberry is listed as a "Weed of National Significance" (WONS).

Your responsibilities

Under the the General Biosecurity Duty - Biosecurity Act 2015, a General Biosecurity Duty applies to all dealings (as defined in the Act) with this species. Any person who deals with this species who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk posed by the plant, a carrier or a dealing, has a duty to ensure the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.

The penalties

The maximum penalties for not complying with the general biosecurity duty or a direction issued under the Biosecurity Act 2015 are:

- In the case of an individual—\$220,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$55,000 for each day the offence continues, or
- In the case of a corporation—\$440,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$110,000 for each day the offence continues.

The maximum penalty for an offence that is committed negligently is:

- In the case of an individual—\$1,100,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$137,500 for each day the offence continues, or
- In the case of a corporation—\$2,200,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$275,000 for each day the offence continues.

Recommendations and requirements

Under the Regional Recommended Measure, an exclusion zone is established for all lands in the region, except the core infestation area comprising the Gywdir Shire Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council and Tamworth Regional Council.

The following is needed to demonstrate compliance with the Act:

- Whole of region: The plant or parts of the plant are not traded, carried, grown or released into the environment
- Within Exclusion Zone: Land managers should prevent spread from their land, land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land
- Within Core Infestation: Land managers should reduce impacts from the plant on priority assets.

Mandatory measure - A person must not import into the State or sell.

An exclusion zone exists within Gunnedah Shire. Under Gunnedah Shire Local Control Requirements, on the Exclusion Zone within the Shire:

1. The land is kept free of the plant, and
2. Land managers will mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land.

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Blackberry Control Calendar



Growth cycles

Germination: November to mid-March	
Flowering: December to February	Flowering seed set: February to May
Cane root tipping: February to June	Perennial root spread: January to June
Active foliage growth: October to April	

Integrated control techniques and alternatives

Herbicide Optimum: February to mid-May	
Burning: August to November	Follow-up regrowth on burnt area: mid-March to July
Grazing by goats: October to May	Heavy grazing to reduce seedling establishment: November to May
Mechanical: January to end of December	

Registered herbicide application rates:

- Glyphosate 360 g/L (Roundup®) Rate: 10–13 mL per 1 L of water: Flowering to leaf fall. Use higher rate on old, dense infestations
- Glyphosate 835 g/kg + Metsulfuron-methyl 10 g/kg (Trounce®) Rate: 1 measured pack (173 g) per 100 L of water: Apply from flowering until before leaf yellowing.
- Hexazinone 250 g/L (Velpar® L) Rate: Undiluted (4 mL per spot) Bushes up to 1 m in height.
- Metsulfuron-methyl 300 g/kg + Aminopyralid 375 g/kg (Stinger™) Rate: 20 g per 100 L of water Spray to thoroughly wet all foliage, Uptake spray oil or Pulse penetrant should be added.
- Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (Brush-off®) Rate: 10 g per 100 L of water: Apply when bushes are actively growing. Thoroughly wet all foliage and canes at commencement of flowering.
- Picloram 100 g/L + Triclopyr 300 g/L + Aminopyralid 8 g/L (Grazon Extra®) Rate: 350 or 500 mL per 100 L water Treat in late spring to autumn. Use an adjuvant
- Picloram 44.7 g/kg + Aminopyralid 4.47 g/L (Vigilant II ®) Rate: Undiluted Cut stump/stem injection application. Apply a 3–5 mm layer of gel for stems less than 20 Mm 5mm for above 20mm.
- Triclopyr 600 g/L (Garlon® 600) Rate: 170 mL per 100 L of water Late spring to early autumn. Actively growing bushes. Do not use under dry conditions.

Critical hints:

- Apply to actively growing plants.
- Consult your LCA Biosecurity Officer- Weeds for application tips
- Always read and follow the Label instructions and SDS of respective herbicides.

Note:

- All Control Techniques involving herbicide use, must comply with the directions on the herbicide label or the conditions set out in a current permit to use a nominated herbicide.
 - All chemical control programs must be carried out in accordance with the Pesticides Act 1999 and Pesticide Regulation 2017.
 - All Chemical application programs used must be undertaken by or be designed and supervised by an appropriately Certified and Accredited Chemical user.
 - Growth patterns and the changes to optimum treatment times will vary with seasonal conditions due to air temperature changes that may coincide with soil and moisture availability.
- DISCLAIMER:**
This document has been prepared by the North West Regional Weed Committee and Local Government Control Authorities in good faith and on the basis of best available information. Users of this document must obtain their own specific advice and conduct their own investigations and assessments of their individual circumstances.

For further information:

Gunnedah Shire Council Biosecurity Officer - Weeds.
63 Elgin Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380
T: (02) 6740 2100
E: council@gunnedah.nsw.gov.au

