

The Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 - 2022



Regional Best Practice Guide for: Blackberry

Botanical Name: *Rubus fruticosus* spp. Agg **Common Names:** Blackberry

Northern Tablelands Regional Priority Weeds Objective – ASSET PROTECTION (Whole of Region)

This weed is widely distributed in some areas of the region. Their spread must be minimised to protect priority sites.

General Biosecurity Duty – *Biosecurity Act 2015*

A **general biosecurity duty** applies to all dealings (as defined) 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.

Regional Recommended Measure:

Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with GBD

- Land managers should prevent spread from their land, where feasible.
- Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land.
- The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment.
- **Mandatory Measure** (Division 8, Clause 33 Biosecurity Regulation 2017) - A person must not import into the State or sell.

New England Weeds Authority Local Control Requirements

Owner/occupiers of land are required to actively control blackberry, and as a minimum, to continuously inhibit the plants ability to spread and its numbers and distribution be reduced.



Blackberries grows vigorously and can infest large areas quickly. Negative impacts include:

- reduced available grazing land (most livestock find blackberry unpalatable) and restricted livestock access to water (when growing densely around waterbodies)
- reduced productivity of land caused by shading out of pastures and crops, and competition for soil moisture and nutrients
- problems in forestry such as the prevention of regeneration of hardwood forests and reduced capacity of plantation softwood and hardwood seedlings to establish and grow. Thickets of blackberry also hinder access for forest operations
- degradation of natural environments by displacing native plants and reducing habitat for native animals
- provision of harbour for vermin such as rabbits and foxes, and seasonal food for exotic animals such as starlings, blackbirds and foxes. These pest species also disperse blackberry seed, acting as vectors that spread blackberry infestations
- increased fire hazard caused by dead blackberry material and obstruction of access to fire trails and water for controlling fires.

Penalty for not complying with the general biosecurity duty or a direction issued under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

The maximum penalty is:

- 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.

Linkage to Plans/Strategies

- Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022
- NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021
- NSW Biosecurity Act 2015
- *Pesticides Act 1999* and Pesticide Regulation 2017



Download the weedwise app for detailed information on priority weeds in our area.

For Further Information:

New England Weeds Authority

129 Rusden St

Armidale NSW 2350

PH: (02) 6770 3602 www.newa.com.au

or

NSW DPI Weedwise: <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

or

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services:

<https://northerntablelands.ils.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity>

References

- *NSW DPI Website /Weedwise/ Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook 6th Edition.*

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared by the Northern Tablelands 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.

Registered herbicide application rates for: Blackberry

Botanical Name: *Rubus fruticosus* spp. Agg

Common Names: Blackberry

Blackberry Control Calendar

JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
HERBICIDE OPTIMAL											HERBICIDE OPTIMAL

Registered Herbicide Application Rates:

Metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (Brush-off®) 10g per 100L of water (Apply when bushes are actively growing. Thoroughly wet all foliage and canes at commencement of flowering.

Picloram 100g/L + Triclopyr 300g/L + Aminopyralid 8g/L (Grazon Extra®) 350 or 500ml per 100L water. (Treat in late spring to autumn. Use an adjuvant).

Metsulfuron-methyl 300g/kg + Aminopyralid 375g/kg (Stinger®) 20g per 100L of water. (Spray to thoroughly wet all foliage, Uptake spray oil or Pulse penetrant should be added.

Critical Comments:

- Consult your weeds officer for application tips
- Always read and follow the Label instructions and MSDS 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.

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