

UPPER MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL

The noxious weeds control authority for the areas of Bathurst Regional Council, Blayney and Oberon Shire Councils and the Lithgow City Council



Blackberry leaves and fruit

BLACKBERRY

GOOD NEIGHBOURS CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS!

Blackberry is a *Weed of National Significance*.

It is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts.

On farms blackberries reduce pasture production, restrict access to water and land, and provide food and shelter for pest animals such as foxes and rabbits.

Blackberry is a perennial, semi-deciduous shrub with stems (canes) up to 7 m long, with rearward facing thorns, that take root where they touch the ground, often forming thickets up to several metres high

Clusters of flowers are white or pink. The berries change colour from green to red to black as they ripen.

Blackberry is a Class 4 noxious weed within the area of Upper Macquarie County Council and the law requires that its growth and spread must be controlled in the manner set out on the right.



You must control blackberry growing on your land.

If you do not understand what is required, or if you require further information or assistance, please contact the Council on 63331375.

If you have been given this pamphlet by a Council Weeds Officer the officer will have written his or her name and contact telephone number below. Please contact the Weeds Officer if you require any further information.

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Weeds Officer Telephone number

Prevention

All uninfested areas shall be kept clear of blackberry by the physical removal of isolated plants before they have a chance to seed and by the maintenance of good quality groundcover.

Herbicide control

A registered herbicide shall be applied to actively growing plants by high volume spot spraying. Spray shall be applied in accordance with the herbicide label. Spray is to be applied first to the inside of bushes so as to ensure good coverage of stems and leaves. Outside leaves, runners and tips are then to be sprayed.

Alternatively, for control of light infestations in areas of high conservation significance, or where susceptible native species or garden plants may be affected, the canes may be cut close to ground level and the cut stems immediately painted with herbicide. This method should be used only on small plants and retreatment shall be undertaken as necessary to prevent regrowth.

Physical control

Plants may be physically removed by mechanical means so as to ensure that crowns and most roots are removed. Regrowth from crowns, root fragments, and seed will occur so follow-up treatment by either further physical means, herbicide application or grazing by goats must be undertaken.

Slashing may be used to help open up dense infestations for follow-up control by other methods but is not an acceptable method of control without follow-up.

Grazing by goats

Goats may be used as a follow-up method of control to graze/browse plants following slashing or other physical methods of control, or herbicide treatment, but they must be used continuously to prevent regrowth occurring.