

Blackberry

What is it?

Blackberry is an introduced species originating from Europe and North America.

Plants were distributed throughout the state by early colonists, and these quickly naturalised. It is estimated that there are at least 11 species of Blackberry in NSW, all very similar in appearance.

What does it look like?

Described as an herbaceous shrub with canes up to 4 metres in length leaves are mostly palmate with 3 to 5 leaflets.

Flowers are mostly white or pinkish with 5 petals. Fruit is a succulent drupelet.

Propagation is by seed, root division and by layering from the canes.

Distribution

Blackberry can be found in many parts of the Hunter and Central Coast region. Infestations can be small isolated clumps or large infestations covering many hectares.

Control Measures

Non-chemical control:
Slashing of juvenile bushes and the use of goats will give some control. Biological control in the form of a rust fungus is available but is not effective in all areas.

Blackberry

Rubus fruticosus agg spp

A Category W3 Noxious weed in all regions. Under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993, plants must be prevented from spreading and its numbers and distribution reduced.



Herbicide control:

There are several herbicides available to control Blackberry. These include products that contain *Glyphosate*, *Triclopyr*, *Metsulfuron*, and others. The timing of application and concentration of use is covered in the label information. It is not recommended that Blackberries be treated with herbicides if they are fruiting.

Repeated applications may be required to achieve total control.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (January 2004). Users are reminded of the need to ensure that any product purchased for the control of Blackberry is registered for that purpose. The author cannot take responsibility for any changes, or modifications, that are made to product registration or requirements that may occur after January 2004.

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