## Control and Management

Control of blackberry once an infestation is established will require a combination of treatments over a number of years.

Physical removal alone is rarely successful as it is hard to remove all roots and sucker. Slashing will promote growth and should be followed by chemical control on regrowth.

Grazing and burning may increase access to blackberry but will not control or kill Blackberry.

Biological control with leaf rust may slow the rate of the spread and assist other control methods, but is unlikely to kill Blackberry.

The key steps to controlling Blackberry are:

- **Learn** to identify Blackberry, or seek assistance in identification
- Seek assistance to **Plan** control methods
- **Implement** the control methods as planned and monitor for regeneration.

***Image: Blackberry in fence line***

## Herbicide Options

**Glyphosate 360 g/L with Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg** (Various products)
Rate: 200 mL glyphosate plus 10 g metsulfuron-methyl per 100 L of water
**Spot spray** application.

Comments: Apply October to April.

**Picloram 100 g/L + Triclopyr 300 g/L + Aminopyralid 8 g/L** (Grazon Extra®)
Rate: 500 mL per 100L **Spot spray** application.

Comments: Apply October to April.

Whenever using herbicides ALWAYS CHECK THE LABEL for applicable withholding periods.

## Acknowledgements

Much of this information was sourced from NSW Weedwise (https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds)

yass valley council

the country the people

# Blackberry

*Rubus fruticosus*

***Image: Fruiting Blackberry***

## Why is Blackberry a weed?

Blackberry is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia as it can quickly infest large areas, taking over pastures, forests, bushland, waterways and roadsides.

The dense, thorny thickets are mostly unpalatable to stock and can greatly reduce the stocking capacity of infested paddocks. They can block stock access to water points and shade when grown frombird droppings below trees.

Blackberry shades out grass cover opening the land up to rain runoff erosion. The large amount of accumulated dead plant material provide a high bushfire hazard.

Blackberries provide shelter for pest animals such as foxes, rabbits and Starlings. The thorns can also catch on fleeces damage wool and potentially ensnaring stock.

## What does it look like?

Blackberry is a large woody shrub with thorn covered canes growing up to 7m long in a tangled inpeneratable thicket. The canes can grow vertically, arched or prostrate along the ground with a redish-purple colour. The main root cane be 4m deep with secondary shallow roots growing from the crown

Leaves are dark glossy green, lighter on the underside with short curved prickles along the leaf veins. After fruiting the leaves turn prple brown and fall off over winter when the plant goes dormant.

Blackberry has pink or white flowers appear in clusters at the end of the canes from November through to February. Each of the berry clusters contain 20-30 seeds.

***Image: Birds spread Blackberry seeds in droppings***

## How does it spread

Blackberry can spread vegetatively and by seeds.

Heavily infested area can produce up to 13,000 seeds per square metre. The hard seed coating passes through the digestive tract of birds and animals allowing blackberries to spread large distances and colonise inaccesible areas such as steep gullies and ravines, as well as beneath shade trees in grazing paddocks. Seeds also drop to the ground to be carried by rainwater runoff.

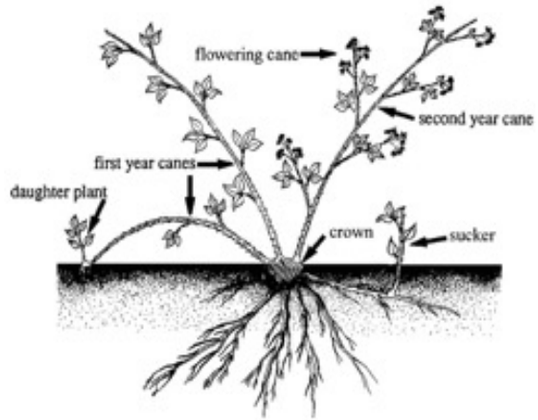


***Image: Blackberry spreads in numerous ways***

In the first year of growth, when canes touch the ground they will shoot roots and grow out as a daugther plant. In the second year these canes produce short flowering canes that bare fruit. Culivation of blackberry often spreads plants further rather than control growth.