

TIPS FOR MANAGING BLACKBERRY

Mature plants management:

Apical has found splatter spraying is an incredibly effective control mechanism for blackberry. The best time for this is in spring before the plants start to flower. Use a mix of 10% glyphosate with 10% surfactant in your spray pack. Apply with a long-armed drenching gun, or wide droplet-size. Squirt out lines of concentrated spray across the bush. Aim to cover about 10% of the plant. Your spray will go a long way with this approach. If the infestation is wider than the splatter gun will reach, mow or brush-cut tracks through the thicket to gain access.

Seedlings:

When seedlings appear in autumn or spring do cultivation, pulling out and splatter spraying before fruits form and tap roots establish.

Bio-mass waste:

Leave in-situ where possible. Dead canopy provides shade for native species to grow underneath, as well as habitat for small birds.

Follow-up:

Keep an eye on treated sites and repeat treatments on any regrowth. This should diminish over time.

Best time and methods for blackberry weed control:

- Pre-flowering for splatter spray.
- Summer – hand pull.
- Autumn – Splatter spray once fruiting has finished.
- Winter – Dig.
- Spring – Splatter spray.



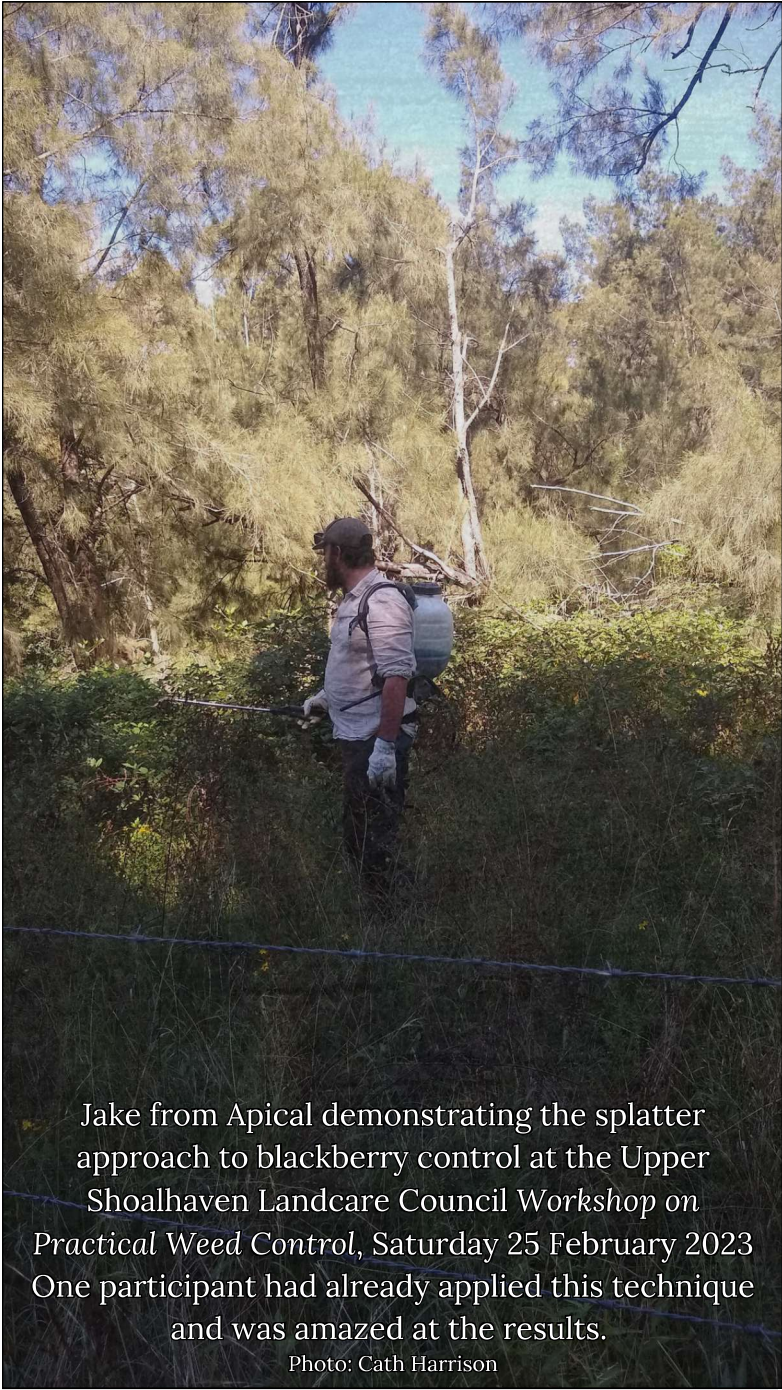
Daniel Anderson, Director of Apical, describing various tools and equipment used for effective weed control

"You can beat blackberry"

Daniel Anderson

General notes regarding blackberry

- A Weed of National Significance
- A long lived, sprawling, mound-forming, fast growing shrub to 2-3 metres tall impacting on agriculture, forestry and natural ecosystems.
- It forms dense stands in native bush and paddocks, forestry and production areas in cool to warm temperate areas, flowering in late spring summer and producing fruits in summer.
- Seeds, usually identical to the mother plant, are spread by birds, animals and water, with clumps rooting from cane tips also resulting in new plants.
- In Australia, Blackberry is an aggregate of up to 20 micro-species which look very similar but react differently to herbicides and control measures.
- Physical and chemical control over time can help control blackberries.



Jake from Apical demonstrating the splatter approach to blackberry control at the Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council *Workshop on Practical Weed Control*, Saturday 25 February 2023. One participant had already applied this technique and was amazed at the results.

Photo: Cath Harrison

The Araluen Creek Weed Management Plan survey (2021) recorded Blackberry in 19 of the 91 survey sections along Araluen Creek.

Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group is committed to implementing the Weed Management Plan for the Bridge to Bridge Project, along Araluen Creek (Araluen camp ground bridge to Neringla Road bridge).

Potential impacts of blackberry:

- Blackberry can reduce the carrying capacity of agricultural land, reduce stock movement and access to water, refuge pest species such as rabbits, and modify habitats for native fauna.

Links to further information:

Weeds of Australia Profiles

- [Rubus fruticosus aggregate profile](#)

NSW *Weedwise*

- [Blackberry \(Rubus fruticosus species aggregate\)](#)