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SGLN Weed Fact Sheet

Blackberry

FAST FACT:

The name 'blackberry' covers at least 14 different but closely related species, some of which may be hybrids, that have become naturalised in Australia.

have I got blackberry at my place?

Blackberry is a perennial, semi-deciduous shrub with prickly stems (canes) that take root where they touch the ground, often forming thickets up to several metres high. The stems, which grow several metres long, may be green, purplish or red, and are generally thorny and moderately hairy. Young canes emerge from buds on the woody root crown each spring and grow very rapidly (50–80 mm a day). Leaves are usually dark green on top with a lighter green underside. The leaf veins and stalks are covered with short prickles. Clusters of flowers are white or pink. The berries change colour from green to red to black as they ripen. The plant is semi-deciduous and may shed its leaves in winter.

why should I worry about it?

Blackberry is a Weed of National Significance. It is regarded as one of Australia's worst weeds as Blackberry has the ability to displace vegetation, invade productive lands and become a fire hazard. In Australia, an estimated 8.8 million hectares is currently infested with Blackberry. Resulting in substantial economic and environmental losses on a national scale.

how can I deal with it?

The control of Blackberry is a long-term process and cannot be achieved with a once off effort. As such, the first step in controlling blackberry involves establishing a basic management plan that aims to identify the infestation and set realistic short and long term goals that can be monitored. There is a range of management options available for controlling blackberry, including physical methods, biological control and herbicides. Herbicides are the most reliable method for achieving local control. Typically treat with herbicide when the blackberry is actively growing between November to April (ideally prior to fruiting). Techniques for herbicide application include foliar, cut stump, granules or gel, and aerial applications. There are registered herbicides for the control of blackberry including Brush Off and Brushkiller 600.

where can I get further help?

South Gippsland Landcare Network can arrange a site visit by one of our Landcare Project Officers to discuss weeds and control. Phone 03 5662 5759 or 0428 317 928. SGLN weeds website is at www.southgippslandweeds.com.au. This website has plenty of great information on weed identification and control. You can also contact a Landcare Project Officer through the web page. For further information or to receive a free copy of a Blackberry Control Manual please contact the South Gippsland Landcare Network Landcare Project Officer.

South Gippsland Landcare Network

The South Gippsland Landcare Network is made up of 19 Landcare groups. Landcare encourages land stewardship and aims to improve the long term productivity and sustainability of our land.

If you would like to become involved in Landcare in South Gippsland you can contact us on 5662 5759 or email us on sgln@landcare.net

The South Gippsland Community Weeds Taskforce meets to discuss weed control policy and strategies.

Contact the Taskforce through the SGLN.

