



Best Practice Blackberry Control

Options for Blackberry Control - Chemical/ Physical

Before deciding on control methods, a blackberry management plan should be developed. For more information, refer to the Weeds of National Significance Blackberry Control Manual.

<http://www.vicblackberrytaskforce.com.au/publications/blackberry-control-manual-complete.pdf>

Chemical

- The optimal time to spray blackberry is when the plant is actively growing. Flowering through to fruiting. **Note: Spraying blackberry before berry drop will go a long way in stopping the spread and growth. (Requirements under the CALP ACT 1994)**
- Do not spray blackberry when conditions are too hot (i.e. over 30 degrees)
- When mixing chemicals , the quality of water is important. PH , water hardness and dirty water can effect certain chemicals effectiveness.
- Choose the appropriate chemical for your particular situation. (i.e. Environmentally sensitive area, large infestation or small infestation)
 - Environmentally sensitive areas-glyphosate product without surfactant- 'Round-up Biactive (Will need follow up applications -low level of control). Is not selective so will kill other plants which may be providing ground cover and preventing erosion.
 - Small infestations (plants less than 2 years old) – Triclopyr picloram
 - Large infestations (plants older than two years) –Metsulfuron-methyl or Ticlopyr picloram.
 - For application techniques- refer to the blackberry manual and your chemical supplier. Always follow the product label.

Physical (Slashing, Mulching, Hand removal)

- Using Physical control options in conjunction with your chemical program can enhance results by reducing biomass, improving access and saving money. (After any physical control, such as slashing, you should wait for at least 50cm regrowth before applying chemical)
- For any land managers using a physical control option as a stand-alone measure, for instance organic farmers , reducing the growth and spread of blackberry is harder to achieve. Regular slashing of blackberry , (monthly or fortnightly) will deplete the plants energy resources in the extensive root system, thereby weakening the plant. But If you perform this practice irregularly, you will create a stronger root system. And secondly, for this technique to be successful , blackberry must be actively growing. (Nov-March/April)