

Management strategies

How to treat

Blackberry is a weed of national significance.

Control of blackberry requires an integrated approach that includes good pasture and grazing management.

1. Treating isolated patches and limited infestations

A spot spray offers effective control of small plants and seedlings. Ensure you treat the whole bush including runners.

2. Treating extensive infestations on arable land

Knock down large infestations with a dozer or slasher to allow access for herbicide spraying. Allow the canes to grow back to at least 1 m long and treat while the plant is actively growing. In year one treat with Garlon 600 @ 170 mL/100 L water, then year two, follow up using Grazon Extra @ 500 mL/100 L water for best results.

3. Treating extensive infestations on hill country

In hilly country a dozer can be used to create access for hand-applied foliar spraying, or aerial treatment with Garlon 600 to knock down large infestations to more manageable levels, allowing access for hand-applied foliar treatment the following season. Allow the canes to grow back to at least 1 m long and treat with Grazon Extra while the plant is actively growing.

For best results

Spray to thoroughly wet all foliage and canes. Ensure peripheral runners are sprayed. If possible, bushes disturbed by ploughing, burning, dozing and slashing should be left to grow for one full season before spraying.

If spraying blackberry in association with docks, ragwort, smartweed or thistles, spray Grazon Extra during late spring to autumn using 350 mL or 500 mL/100 L water.

Use the higher rate on plants that have been damaged by grazing stock or insects and on known difficult-to-kill blackberry. Only use the lower rate when conditions are ideal.

Treatment tips

- Avoid using foliar applied herbicides on blackberries that are moisture-stressed or grazed heavily at the time of application.
- Spray regrowth when runners are at least 1 m long after slashing, burning or grazing to allow sufficient leaf area to absorb enough herbicide to control the root system.
- Ensure all canes and leaves are sprayed, including those growing from suckers away from the main bush. Spray in the period from petal fall to leaf fall.



Blackberry

(*Rubus* spp.)



Grazon[®] Extra
HERBICIDE



Blackberry (*Rubus* spp.)

Description

Blackberries commonly form dense thickets that may grow more than 2 m tall and cover large areas. The plant has prickly stems or canes that grow from a perennial crown up to 150 mm in diameter. The canes may be erect, arching or trailing and can reach 6 m in length. Leaves consist of three to five separate leaflets, are dark green on the upper side, whitish underneath, and

usually bear hooked thorns on the leaf stalks. Partially deciduous, blackberry sheds leaves in winter.

Flowers are 2–3 cm in diameter, white or pink in colour and are formed in clusters at the ends of the branches. Fruit change colour from green to red to black, each containing one seed.

Timing

Blackberry can be foliar sprayed any time after the bushes commence flowering, provided they are actively growing and not suffering from stress. Lack of moisture or defoliation from insect damage will reduce the effectiveness of treatment.

Product	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Grazon® Extra Herbicide	✗	✗	⚙	⚙	✓	✓	✓	⚙	⚙	✗	✗	✗

KEY:

- ✓ Best time to spray/treat
- ⚙ Can spray/treat if conditions are suitable
- ✗ Do not spray/treat

Herbicides for control of blackberry

Product*	Method of application	Rate†	State
Grazon® Extra Herbicide	Foliar spray	350 or 500 mL/100 L of water	All
Garlon® 600 Herbicide	Foliar spray	170 mL/100 L of water	All
Tordon® RegrowthMaster Herbicide	Foliar spray	500 mL/100 L of water + adjuvant	All except NT
Grazon® Extra Herbicide	Aerial spray	10 L/ha (apply in 200 L water/ha)	ACT, NSW, NT, Qld, SA, Vic, WA
Garlon® 600 Herbicide	Aerial (helicopter only)	4.8 L/ha (apply in 200 L water/ha)	NSW, SA, Tas, Vic, WA
Garlon® 600 Herbicide	Aerial (helicopter or fixed wing)	4.8 L/ha (apply in 200 L water/ha)	Qld
Grazon® Extra Herbicide	Controlled droplet application	Apply undiluted	All
Grazon® Extra Herbicide	Gas gun application	335 mL/10 L of water	All
Vigilant® II Herbicide	Cut stump	Apply neat: 3–5 mm layer	All

Note: Preferred product option in bold. † Consult label for details of growth stage and use, especially where range of rates is given.



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