



# Inverell Shire Council

## NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL UNIT

Please address all correspondence to the General Manager, Inverell Shire Council,  
144 Otho Street, Inverell, NSW 2360 - Telephone 02 6728 8288 Fax 02 6728 8277  
Email [council@inverell.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@inverell.nsw.gov.au) website [www.inverell.nsw.gov.au](http://www.inverell.nsw.gov.au)

## Blackberry

Most people enjoy the taste of blackberries. No doubt that had a lot to do with why blackberry was brought out from Europe to Australia in the early days of white settlement. Now very widespread, it is probably the one noxious weed that most people can identify (in general, anyway, because there are a least 14 different but closely related species of blackberry now naturalised in Australia).

Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg. spp.) infests some 8.8 million hectares of land in Australia. Its invasive nature and resistance to chemical control makes it a very difficult plant to eradicate. In northern New South Wales, it is a major weed of the tablelands and higher-altitude areas of the slopes.

The main blackberry areas in Inverell Shire are around Inverell and in the higher altitude areas south and east of Inverell, with scattered plants found as far west as Graman-Wallangra.



*Blackberry can completely invade grazing properties, waterways, even abandoned buildings. This photograph (above) taken near Inverell shows just how blackberry can take over if not controlled (this patch has since been treated).*

### IDENTIFICATION

Plants comprise stems or canes covered in prickles to deter animals (and to annoy humans!). The canes can grow up to 7 metres long, reaching out to touch the ground and to take root again.

Blackberry normally flowers late November to late February, and produces its sought-after berries December to early April.



### THE PROBLEM

The problem with blackberry is its invasiveness. Unimpeded, it has the potential to keep spreading until it reduces a property's stock-carrying capacity to nil. Its growth pattern around waterways is so strong that it impedes stock access to water.

Sheep can be trapped in amongst blackberry by the plants' many thorns. Goats, on the other hand, thrive on blackberry and can be very effective in keeping the plants under control.

### LEGAL STATUS:

Sweet briar is a declared **NOXIOUS WEED** within the Shire of Inverell. Please see legal requirements overleaf.

### MORE INFORMATION? PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL WEEDS OFFICER:

Les Tanner 02 6728 8284 - mobile 0427 241 806

Phil Sutton 02 6728 8244 - 0418 446 068

OR check out Council's website on [www.inverell.nsw.gov.au](http://www.inverell.nsw.gov.au), Environmental Services section

## BLACKBERRY (CONT)

### CC4(A) MANAGEMENT PLAN - Legal requirements within the Shire of Inverell:

The growth and spread of the plant must be controlled by conducting an on-going and effective treatment program to reduce plant numbers and to minimise the plant's negative impact on the land. Boundaries and waterways must be kept free of the plant to prevent spread from the property. All reasonable measures are to be taken to ensure vehicles, machinery and livestock moved off the property are free of the plant.


### CONTROL METHODS

According to NSW DPI's excellent booklet "*Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook 3rd Edition*", treatments for blackberry include

**Non-Chemical Options:** Slashing of juvenile bushes, use of goats will give some control. Biological control agents are under trial and may become available for inaccessible areas. Improve pastures with a vigorous perennial spp:

### Chemical options:

Chemical options	Rate: Spot/Boom	Comments
Triclopyr+picloram 200 g/L+ 100 g/L eg Grazon DSH®	500 ml per 100 L of water	Late spring to autumn treatment. Use an adjuvant.
Glyphosate 360 g/L Various trade names	1.0 to 1.3 L per 100 L of water	Flowering to leaf fall. Use higher rate on old dense infestations
Glyphosate+metsulfuron methyl 835 g/kg + 10 g/kg Trounce®	1 measured pack (173 g) per 100 L of water	Apply from flowering until before leaf yellowing. Do not apply to bushes with mature fruit.
Metsulfuron methyl+glyphosate 63.2 g/kg + 760.5 g/kg Cut-out®	1 measured pack (95g) per 100 L of water	Apply between January and April when bushes are actively growing. Do not apply to bushes with mature fruit.
Metsulfuron methyl Various trade names eg Brushoff® and Ally®	10 g per 100 L of water	Apply when bushes are actively growing. Thoroughly wet all foliage and canes at commencement of flowering.
Metsulfuron methyl+picloram 200 g/kg + 240 g/kg Crossbow®	30 g Part A plus 0.15 L Part B per 100 L water plus wetter	Wet all foliage and canes. DO NOT apply to plants with mature fruit.
Hexazinone 250 g/L Various trade names eg Velpar L®	Undiluted (4 mL per spot)	Bushes up to 1 m in height.
Picloram 600 g/L Tordon® granules	35-35g/m2	Apply granules over an area extending from main stem to 30 cm outside the drip line.
Triclopyr 600 g/L Various trade names eg Garlon 600®	170 ml per 100 L of water	Late spring to early autumn actively growing bushes. <b>Do not use under dry conditions</b>
Triclopyr+Picloram 300 g/L + 100 g/L. Various trade names	350 or 500 mL per 100 L of water	Late spring to early autumn when bushes are actively growing. Use the higher rate on plants which have been damaged by grazing stock or insects.
Picloram 45g/kg Vigilant®	Undiluted	Cut stump/stem injection application. Apply a 3-5 mm layer of gel for stems less than 20 mm. Apply 5 mm layer on stems above 20 mm (see label)

 **Blackberry is a hard plant to eradicate.** If possible (and of course, **subject to bushfire restrictions at the time**) burn plants about 12 to 18 months after treatment. This removes the bulk of the dead canes, tidies up the area, makes regrowth easier to find, and minimises quantity of herbicide needed for follow-up treatments.

### IMPORTANT: USE OF PESTICIDES - ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

Pesticides must only be used for the purpose for which they are registered and must not be used in any other situation or in any manner contrary to the directions on the label. Never use herbicide in any way contrary to the label recommendations.

**DISCLAIMER:** The information contained in this web site is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Inverell Shire Council or the user's independent adviser. (LRT 22/01/10)

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