



WEED CONTROL CLASS 4 MANAGEMENT PLAN

The control objective for weed control class 4 is to minimise the negative impact of those plants on the economy, community or environment of NSW.

NAME OF WEED: Blackberry

Common name: Blackberry

Scientific name: *Rubus fruticosus (agg. spp.)*

The above mentioned weed is a noxious weed declared under section 7 of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

AREA OF OPERATION & PHONE NUMBERS FOR LOCAL CONTROL AUTHORITIES:

Blue Mountains 4780 5000

CONTACT PERSON(S)

Weeds Officer: Ian Lett, Dave Whiteman

Council: Blue Mountains City Council

PLAN PERIOD

Starting date: 10 November 2006

Completion date: 28 February 2011
(Unless otherwise revoked)

CONTROL MEASURES FOR THE WEED(S) AS PER ORDER 19

The growth and spread of the plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a management plan published by the local control authority and the plant may not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed.

On privately owned land less than 10 hectares, for infestations smaller than 2 ha the weed must be continuously suppressed and destroyed.

On privately owned land less than 10 hectares, for infestations larger than 2 ha the weed must be prevented from spreading and its area reduced by a minimum of 50% annually. Establishment of new infestations must be prevented. A weed management plan for the site must be submitted and approved by the Local Control Authority.

On privately owned land greater than 10 hectares, for infestations smaller than 20 ha the weed must be continuously suppressed and destroyed.

On privately owned land greater than 10 hectares, for infestations larger than 20 ha the weed must be prevented from spreading and its area reduced by a minimum of 25% annually. Establishment of new infestations must be prevented. A weed management plan for the site must be submitted and approved by the Local Control Authority.

On public land Blackberry will be strategically controlled and reduced according to available resources.

CONTROL REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS WEED IN THE AREA OF OPERATION

General information on control methods for this weed can be found at <http://www.weedsbluemountains.org.au> and in the most recent edition of the annual Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook or at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au. Additional biological and control information is available in the Weeds Of National Significance (WONS) Weed Management Guide for Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* aggregate), produced by the CRC for Weed Management.

All herbicide use is to be undertaken with a registered herbicide as specified on the herbicide product label or relevant off-label permit published by the Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority. Herbicide use must comply with the Pesticides Act 1999, all relevant legislation, and Blue Mountains City Council's Pesticide Notification Plan as of February 2007 where works are carried out on public lands

Manual control.

Small infestations can be dug out, however all parts of the root system must be removed to avoid re-shooting. This control technique is not advisable on slopes, riparian zones or in situations where accelerated erosion may potentially occur.

Herbicide control.

Herbicide control is most effective from November to April, when the plant is flowering /fruiting and actively growing. The weed must not be treated when dormant.

Blackberry can be sprayed with a registered herbicide. Several follow-up treatments may be required

For smaller infestations, direct herbicide application using the cut and paint or scrape and paint method should be used. The cut and paint technique requires the woody crown of each plant to be cut through and herbicide applied immediately after cutting. The scrape and paint technique requires each blackberry stem to be scraped with a knife or similar, removing the outer layer of 'skin' from the base of the stem to at least 30cm along the stem. Herbicide must be applied to each stem immediately after scraping. Re-apply to any regrowth.

Note: For infestations in sensitive areas (i.e. Significant vegetation – Endangered Ecological Communities other scheduled vegetation, steep slopes, and creek line vegetation) the landholder will be required to develop a Weed Management Plan (WMP) that will stipulate the control measures. The WMP is to be endorsed by Council.

LINKAGES TO OTHER PLANS, STRATEGIES (Local, Regional, State and National)

Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Weed Strategy (under preparation)
Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Weed Strategy (under preparation)
Weeds of National Significance – Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* L. agg.) Strategic Plan

SECTION 12 OBLIGATIONS (from the Noxious Weeds Act 1993)

Private occupiers of land must control noxious weeds on land.

An occupier (other than a public authority or a local control authority) of land to which a weed control order applies must control noxious weeds on the land as required under the order.

Failure to comply with a weed control order will incur a penalty.

Note: If an occupier fails to comply with obligations under a weed control order, those obligations may be enforced against the owner of the land as well as the occupier by a weed control notice issued under section 18.