

Blackberry

Rosaceae - *Rubus fruticosus* agg.



What does it look like?

Blackberry is a scrambling, prickly perennial shrub, growing upwards of 2m. Plants are usually deciduous (sheds leaves), with large root crowns and long suckers. Stems are usually arching (occasionally semi-upright), entangled, green or red and occasionally layering. Oval serrate leaves are arranged alternately on the stems. White to pink 5-petalled flower followed by clusters of black berries. Conditions favoured for blackberry include bush and stream edges, swamps, tussock and sedge land, and no shaded locations.

Most commonly spotted: Flowers from November to April, fruits from November to May.

Why is it a problem?

A production pest which if left unchecked can become a major pasture weed that can spread easily forming dense impenetrable thickets, commonly spread by birds. Smothers most low growing species, inhibiting the establishment of native plant seedlings. Low plants scramble over the ground with an extensive root system, occasionally layering and seeding. Mostly spread by rhizomes (stems that grow roots). Low to moderate damage in open habitats.

Control methods

Dig out small patches (all year round): Dispose of root crowns and roots at a refuse transfer station or burn or bury deeply.

For agrichemical control for refer to: [Blackberry • Weedbusters](#)

More information

Similar species: Raspberry, loganberry and wild rose species. There are no known native plant species with a similar appearance.

Management programme

- Sustained Control
- National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA)

Rules

- Council will work with landowner/occupier, including developing agreements for the effective management of this pest to protect the values of specific sites.
For more information about this Rule, refer to our Regional Pest Management Plan page 35, under Related Links.
- All occupiers shall on a complaints basis, and unless otherwise agreed between the neighbours and Council staff, destroy this pest plant on their land within 50m of a boundary with an adjacent property within 21 calendar days of being notified of the presence of the pest, where the adjacent land occupier is controlling these pests on their land.