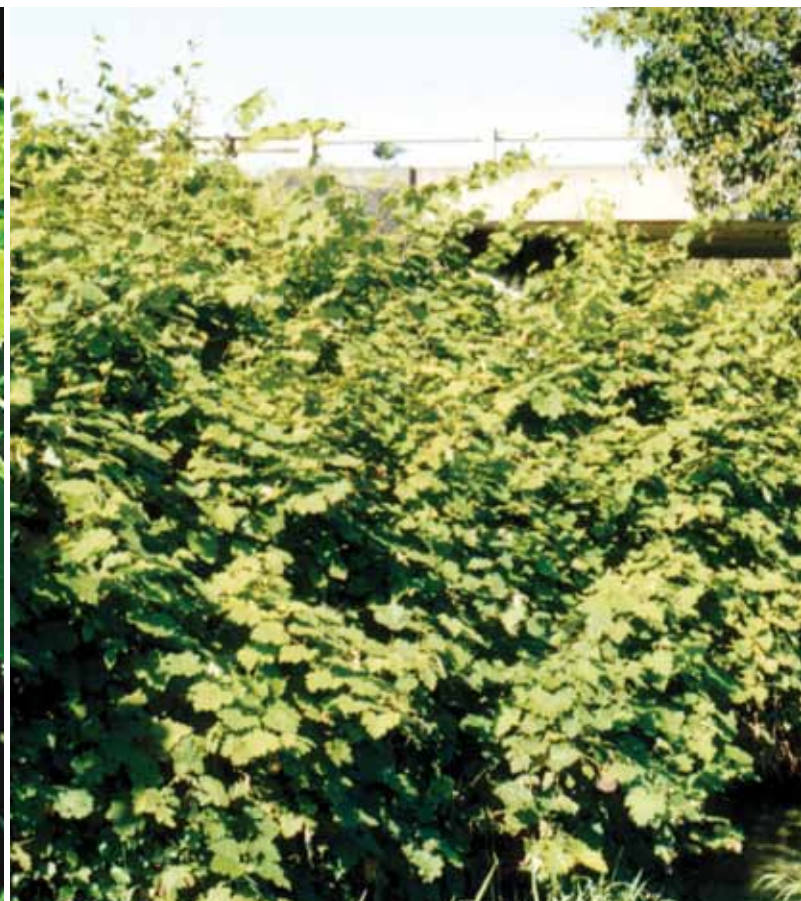


Giant bramble

Rubus alceifolius



Giant bramble is a native of South-East Asia. When and why it was introduced into Australia is not known.

The plant forms dense, impenetrable thickets, due to its ability to grow vegetatively and its barbed canes. It readily invades developing pastures, particularly on newly cleared land, which reduces pasture productivity and access to water. It will encroach onto roadways, hindering access to useful areas, and spread into disturbed rainforest areas.

Declaration details

Giant bramble is not declared under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*; however, plants that are not declared under state legislation may have control requirements imposed by local governments.

Description and general information

Giant bramble is a vigorous, scrambling, perennial shrub, capable of covering other plants and forming dense thickets. It readily invades pastures, roadsides, and other cleared areas in the Wet Tropics of Queensland. Giant bramble is often confused with a native bramble, commonly called 'wild raspberry', which is similar but has a differently shaped leaf.

The stems of giant bramble become thick canes, up to 5 m long, covered with a felt of brown hairs and hooked prickles. They are erect at first then arch and scramble over other plants, taking root where they reach the ground and producing daughter plants.



Queensland Government

The leaves are large and alternate, green above and velvety brown below (due to a dense covering of hairs). There is a deep notch at the base of each leaf and about seven shallow, but finely serrated lobes.

The flowers are white, in clusters at the ends of short secondary canes, and the fruit is an edible 'berry', which is red when ripe.

Life cycle

Seeds germinate at any time of the year (providing moisture is available), but mainly in December–January. Flowers are produced in July, developing on short secondary canes that are produced in the second year of the plant's growth. Fruits ripen in September–October, with new primary canes developing from the rootstock as this occurs.

Dispersal

Spread of giant bramble occurs when birds and animals eat the succulent fruit and void the seed through their droppings. Localised spread, and an increase in density, occurs when canes take root and produce daughter plants.

Distribution and habitat

In Queensland, giant bramble is found in the Wet Tropics of north-eastern Queensland, between Tully and Cairns, mainly in the lowlands and foothills, and on the wet, eastern edge of the Atherton Tableland. It inhabits wet gullies, creek banks, the perimeter of rainforest areas and the edges of logging tracks and roadsides.

Control

Herbicide control

Herbicide can be used by applying as an overall spray during the early flowering period, making sure that the leaves and stems are thoroughly wetted. Penetration of thick clumps may be difficult and re-spraying may be required.

One herbicide is currently registered for giant bramble. See Table 1 for details.

For permit information and conditions visit www.apvma.gov.au

Mechanical control

Regular slashing will hinder growth, and will give varying degrees of control if the plants are slashed before they are able to seed. Cultivating can be used as control technique with varying degrees of success.

Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland (call 13 25 23 or visit our website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

Table 1. Herbicides registered for the control of giant bramble

| Herbicide | Rate | Comments |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Grazon DS picloram/triclopyr | 1:200 parts water + wetting agent | Overall spray when actively growing |

Read the label carefully before use. Always use the herbicide in accordance with the directions on the label.

Fact sheets are available from Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) service centres and our Business Information Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this fact sheet should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation, and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the use of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, DEEDI does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.