

BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT PROBLEM WEEDS

Blackberry (RUBUS FRUTICOSUS)

Weed 1/9

STATUS: Regionally Controlled Weed

STEMS: Erect, arched or trailing up to 7m long; green to reddish purple; with numerous curved or straight thorns 3-12mm long. It has the unusual characteristic of developing roots and daughter plants at the stem tips.

LEAVES: Dark green on the upper side and lighter underneath with fine hairs. Alternate. Leaves are usually shed in winter.

FLOWERS: White or pink with five petals. Formed in clusters at the end of short branches.

FRUIT: A berry changing colour from green to red, to black as it ripens 1-3cm diameter; consisting of an aggregate of fleshy segments each containing one seed.

SEED: Light to dark brown 2-3mm long, deeply and irregularly pitted.

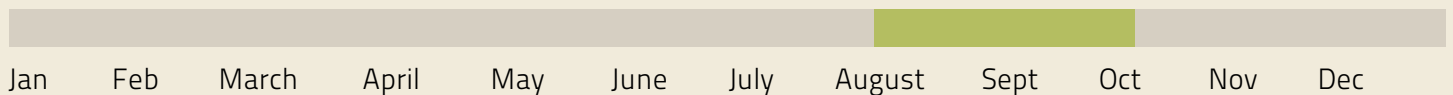
INVADES: Fertile soils, roadsides, streambanks, neglected areas, farmland, orchards, forest plantations and bushland.

DISPERSAL: Birds (Internal), Animals (external), Animals, other than birds (internal) and vegetatively.

CONTROL: Cut and paint, chemical spraying, mechanical, hand pulling and revegetation.



This weed is best tackled in the following months:



Blackwood and Barry's Reef Landcare Group has identified nine priority weeds that threaten the Wombat State Forest and Lerderderg State Park. The weeds are gorse, broom, blackberry, holly, blue periwinkle, Himalayan honeysuckle, radiata pine, galenia and Spanish heath. The group is committed to protecting the forest and needs assistance from all Blackwoodians. Your involvement and support is most welcome. Talk to president Shane Scanlan on (phone) 0419 542 625.

BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT PROBLEM WEEDS

Blue Periwinkle (VINCA MAJOR)

Weed 2/9

STATUS: Undeclared Weed

STEMS: Procumbent stems up to 1 m long which can root at the tips in suitable circumstances.

LEAVES: Dark green, shiny and free of hairs

FLOWERS: Blue purple occurring singly in axillary positions on stalks that are shorter than the leaves.

SEED: Fertile seed is rarely (if ever) produced as most infestations consist only of female plants

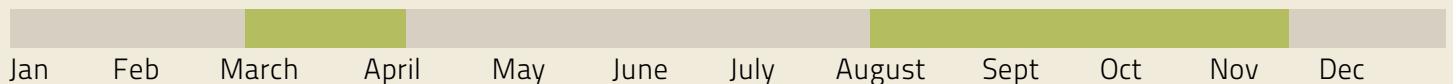
INVADES: Fertile soils, coastal, heathy and riparian environments.

DISPERSAL: Birds (internal), animals other than birds (internal) and vegetatively.

CONTROL: Hand pulling, chemical spraying or mulching.



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BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT PROBLEM WEEDS

Broom

(GENISTA MONSPESSULANA) & (CYTISUS SCOPARIUS)

Weed 3/9

STATUS: Regionally Controlled Weed

STEMS: Erect woody and ridged. Finely hairy; one main stem with many branches.

LEAVES: Shortly stalked and made up of three leaflets which are hairy underneath. Middle leaflet is longer than the others.

FLOWERS: Bright yellow, pea like, about 1.2cm long, shortly stalked, occurring singly or in clusters of up to 9 in leaf axils. Appearing in late winter through spring.

FRUIT: A brown or black flat silky pod containing 5-8 seeds, coiled after the release of the seeds.

SEED: Dark brown to black, rounded and somewhat flattened, 2mm diameter, smooth and shiny.

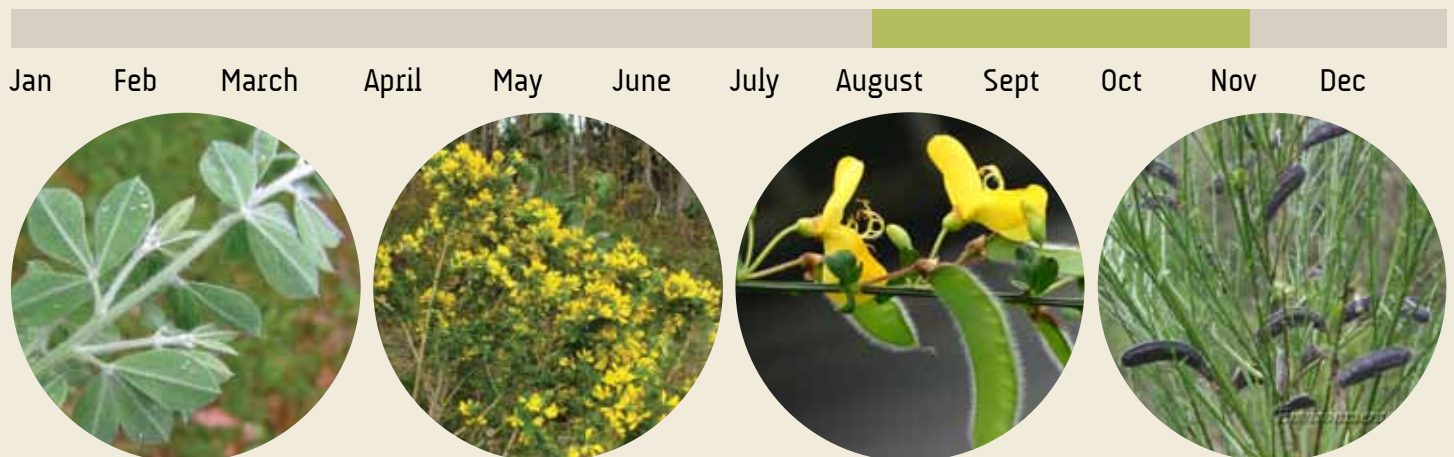
INVADES: Forests, neglected areas, roadsides and watercourses.

DISPERSAL: Vegetatively, machinery and soil disturbance.

CONTROL: Removal by digging, chemical spraying, burning and revegetation.



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BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT PROBLEM WEEDS

Galenia

(GALENIA PUBESCENS)

Weed 4/9

STATUS: Undeclared Weed

STEMS: Thick, and woody in appearance.

LEAVES: Numerous, small white hairs covering both sides of the leaf. Leaves are alternate and often very crowded. Leaves ovate, to 35 mm long and 15 mm wide, villous when young.

FLOWERS: Small conventional flowers about 2-3mm wide with small white petals often marked with a pink tinge. Flowers in April and November to December.

FRUIT: A dry capsule; seeds reniform, tuberculate. Shiny and black; 1mm long.

INVADES: Coastal and mallee communities.

DISPERSAL: Wind, water and vegetatively

CONTROL: Hand pulling and digging to remove plant and roots and chemical spraying.



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BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT PROBLEM WEEDS

Gorse

(ULEX EUROPAEUS)

Weed 5/9

STATUS: Regionally Controlled Weed

STEMS: Green when young and turning to brown and woody. Ridged and hairy and covered with spines up to 5cm long and bearing short branches with spiny ends.

LEAVES: Often dark green, narrow and spiny, 1-3cm long, stalkless, occurring in whorled clusters along the branches.

FLOWERS: Bright yellow pea like flowers 2-2.5cm long. Produced in leaf axils and terminal clusters between July to October and March to May.

FRUIT: a dark coloured ovoid pod, 1-2cm long, densely hairy, containing 2-6 seeds enclosed by tan coloured bracts.

SEED: Green to brown, about 3mm long, and triangular in shape. Smooth and shiny.

INVADES: Heathlands, hillsides and embankments, unimproved grazing land, neglected sites, roadsides and forest margins.

DISPERSAL: Vegetatively, Birds (internal), water and animals, other than birds (internal)

CONTROL: Hand pull seedlings, removal by digging or grooming, chemical spraying, cut and paint or burning.



This weed is best tackled in the following months:



Jan Feb March April May June July August Sept Oct Nov Dec



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BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT PROBLEM WEEDS

Himalayan Honeysuckle

(*Leycesteria formosa*)

Weed 6/9

STATUS: Environmental Weed

STEMS: Rounded and green.

LEAVES: The leaves are ovate to 5cm, green and opposite.

FLOWERS: Flowers are yellow to cream and perfumed, crimson on the outside.

SEED: Round black shiny seeds 0.5 to cm

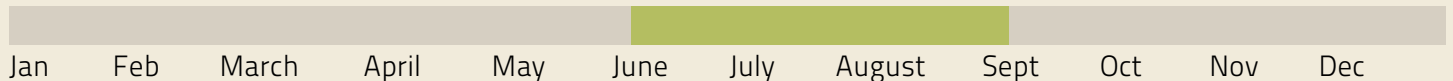
INVADES: Is particularly troublesome in sheltered areas in the higher rainfall areas of Victoria, where it is invasive in damp and wet sclerophyll forests, riparian vegetation and along moist gullies.

DISPERSAL: This species reproduces by seed, which are most commonly spread by birds and other animals that eat the fruit. Seeds are also dispersed by water, machinery, vehicles, in contaminated soil, and in dumped garden waste.

CONTROL: Chemical spraying or removal by digging.



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BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT PROBLEM WEEDS

Holly (ILEX AQUIFOLIUM)

Weed 7/9

STATUS: Environmental Weed

STEMS: Pale grey and smooth.

LEAVES: Dark green and wavy with irregular prickles along the margin when mature. Young leaves are rounded.

FLOWERS: Small off-white flowers are borne in the leaf axils, developing into a red berry in autumn on female trees.

SEED: Four to five per berry, held on the tree over winter.

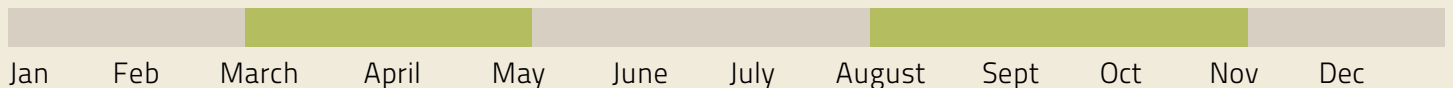
INVADES: This species invades damp and wet forest areas, riparian where it out-competes and replaces indigenous species.

DISPERSAL: The fruit are eaten by birds and other animals which disperse the seeds into bushland. They may also be spread in dumped garden waste. Plants can also spread laterally by suckering and layering to form dense thickets.

CONTROL: Hand pulling of seedlings, cut and paint mature plants.



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BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT PROBLEM WEEDS

Radiata Pine

(PINUS RADIATA)

Weed 8/9

STATUS: Undeclared Weed.

STEMS: Grows to 40m, with dark grey deeply ridged bark. It has a strong pine fragrance, and the whole tree is resinous and sticky.

LEAVES: Leaves are soft dark green twisted needles, growing in groups of three. New shoots grow vertically at first ('candles').

FLOWERS: Inconspicuous small flowering cones which may take two to three years to mature.

FRUIT / SEED: Winged paper thin seeds are contained in oval pine cones, 8-14cm long.

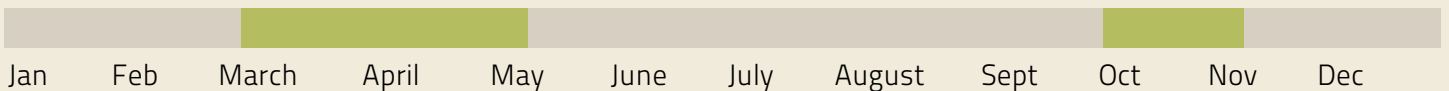
INVADES: Native forests flanking softwood plantations, heathland, woodland, forests and riparian vegetation.

DISPERSAL: Vegetatively and wind.

CONTROL: Hand pulling, chemical spraying, cut and paint or burning.



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Spanish Heath

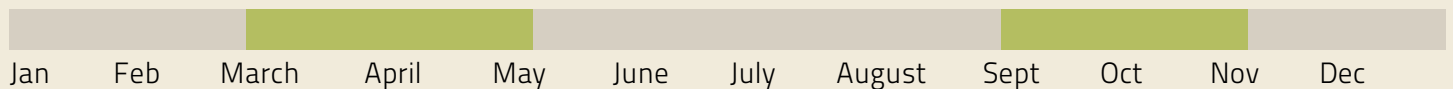
(ERICA LUSITANICA)

Weed 9/9

- STATUS:** Environmental Weed
- STEMS:** Brittle, woody, densely covered with simple hairs.
- LEAVES:** Densely covered, narrow, arranged in rings around the stem.
- FLOWERS:** White to pink flowers, clustered at the end of short side branches.
- FRUIT:** A small capsule, about 3mm long.
- SEED:** 80-100 seeds per capsule.
- INVADES:** Roadsides run down pasture and bushland.
- DISPERSAL:** Wind, water and machinery
- CONTROL:** Hand pulling, chemical spraying or cut and paint.



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