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.

**Legal requirements**

Giant bramble is not a prohibited or restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. However, by law, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants under their control.

Local governments must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants in their area. This plan may include actions to be taken on certain species. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.

**Description**

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. 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.

Three herbicides are currently registered for giant bramble, one of which requires tank mixing. See Table 1 for details.

For permit information and conditions visit 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 on 13 25 23 or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of giant bramble

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural non-crop areas, commercial and industrial areas, forests, pastures and rights-of-way</td>
<td>Triclopyr 300 g/L + picloram 100g/L (e.g. Conqueror) or Triclopyr 300 g/L + picloram 100g/L + aminopyralid 8 g/L (e.g. Grazon Extra)</td>
<td>500 mL/100L water + wetting agent</td>
<td>Overall spray when actively growing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Picloram 240 g/L (e.g. Stuka Flexi)</td>
<td>210 mL/100 L water plus 250 mL Triclopyr (600 g/L) as tank mix + wetting agent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

This fact sheet is developed with funding support from the Land Protection Fund.

Fact sheets are available from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) service centres and our Customer Service Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at 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, DAF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

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