



Understanding the Problem:

The blackberry is a delicious fruit and an important source of food and cover for many birds and mammals. It is a hardy relative of the rose.

However, many species are considered noxious weeds including the Himalayan Giant (*Rubus procerus*) developed by Luther Burbank that was introduced in 1855.

A single cane can develop into a six square yard thicket in less than two years quickly overtaking any area you have for planting.



How do I get rid of wild Blackberry vines in my yard?

Management:

One reason blackberry vines are so difficult to control is that established plants spread by nodes - or small underground buds - that grow off established blackberry vine roots. No matter what method is used to eradicate them, careful follow up is necessary because they are able to regenerate following mowing, burning or herbicide treatment.

Homeowners can use various methods to reverse the assault of this yard invader.

An all out attack is recommended for best results:

Cultural Control:

Mowing, chopping or burning or allowing goats to forage can provide short-term canopy reduction that will encourage the growth of grasses and broadleaf plants.

Chemical Controls:

In the spring, when plants are actively growing, Crossbow™ is probably the best herbicide treatment available to the home gardener. It will not harm grasses, but should not be used on hot days. See label for environmental restrictions.

A herbicide treatment of glyphosate, such as Roundup™ or a similar product, would work best as a fall application when the canes are actively growing and after berries have set. This time period works best because the vines are pulling food into their root systems for the winter and therefore transfer a greater amount of the herbicide into the roots. Treatment symptoms likely will not show before fall frost. RETREATMENT is likely to be required. Roundup will also kill grasses and any other plants growing in the treated area.



Mechanical means should be used after the chemical control has been allowed to kill plants so that a large leaf area will be covered.

No matter which method is used hardy vegetation should be planted to provide shade and crowding so that new blackberry seedlings cannot become established.



**OSU/Umatilla County
Master Gardener Association**
Umatilla County Extension Service
541-567-8321 or 541-278-5403
[http://extension.oregonstate.edu/umatilla/
master_gardener/mg](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/umatilla/master_gardener/mg)

For More Information:

OSU Website:

Reduce your blackberry thicket to a few stragglers
[http://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/story.php?
S_No=701](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/story.php?S_No=701)

Blackberries take persistence and time to control
[http://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/story.php?
S_No=603](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/story.php?S_No=603)

Pest Notes:

Publication 7434 *WILD BLACKBERRIES Integrated
Pest Management for Home Gardeners and Land-
scape Professionals*

University of California Davis Website
[http://www.imp.ucdavis.edu/PDF/PESTNOTES/
pnwildblackberries.pdf](http://www.imp.ucdavis.edu/PDF/PESTNOTES/pnwildblackberries.pdf)

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