

## Wild Blackberry Control

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A number of native and introduced species of blackberries grow in California. Wildlife and people eat berries produced by several species of brambles. However, vine growth can create problems where it grows vigorously, producing mounded thickets on pastures, Christmas tree plantations, ditches, and elsewhere. The principal weedy blackberries are Himalaya blackberry (*Rubus discolor*) and evergreen blackberry (*Rubus laciniatus*.)

### Hand and Mechanical control

Blackberry canes (stems) grow from underground burl-like root crowns. Where berry plants are few in number, they can be killed by grubbing out the burls with a mattock. Larger infestations away from fences or ditch banks can be disked out with repeated cultivations if the soil is not too wet. It may be necessary to burn out large thickets where appropriate before disking. Hand grubbing will be more effective after disking when new canes are forming. Blackberry vines are vigorous resprouters if the burls are not killed. Patience is required for successful control.

### Control with Herbicides

Glyphosate (Accord, Roundup, Rodeo) and triclopyr (Redeem, Remedy) effectively control blackberries. Application timing (growth stage) and season are important in using these foliage-applied translocated chemicals. Repeat applications if necessary to completely remove the plants.

### Growth stage and conditions for best control

To gain maximum downward translocation of these systemic herbicides into the burls, blackberry canes should be a minimum of 3 to 4 feet long. For mature, established plants, late flowering to the green berry stage is advised for application timing. Earlier application can be effective as well. If water contact is unavoidable, use Accord or Rodeo, but minimize spraying onto the water.

Avoid spraying when soils are dry and plants are moisture stressed. For best results, apply these herbicides early summer at the late-flowering stage, or fall-winter after rains have commenced. Seepy, moist, sites provide conditions for best results. In the fall-winter desirable crops or ornamentals have a lower sensibility and are less affected by spray drift. Fall-winter timing is suggested for spraying to control blackberries on ditch banks after the water is drained for the winter.

The addition of diesel oil to Remedy (1/2 to 1% Remedy + 99% diesel) for dormant winter spraying is very effective.

### Application Rates

For foliage-cane applications use the following mixtures:

Trade Names	Quantities per 100 gallons of water
Redeem (amine)	3 qt. +1 qt surfactant (wetting agent)
Remedy (ester)	2 qt. +2 qt diesel oil
Remedy + 2, 4D* (ester)	1.5 qt. Remedy + 2 qt. 2, 4D ester + 2 qt. Diesel oil
Rodeo	3 qt. + 2 qt. Surfactant (wetting agent)
Accord, Roundup	1 gal. + 2 qt. surfactant (wetting agent)

\*Restricted use herbicide; purchase or use of more than 1 pint or pound requires a permit from the agricultural commissioner in the county where the herbicide will be used.

### Precautions:

Herbicides mentioned here have livestock grazing restrictions associated with their use. Read product labels for specifics.

Avoid direct or drift contact of desirable crop or ornamental plants to prevent injuring or killing them.

Use low pressures and large nozzle openings to reduce formation of small, driftable droplets. Most home garden sprayers are equipped with nozzles that produce small, driftable spray droplets.

Keep applications of Redeem, Remedy, and Roundup away from ponds, irrigation ditches, and streams.

Do not allow harvesting of berries from herbicide-treated plants, the fruit may contain unapproved herbicide residues.

Use of spray application equipment for general pest control in the garden is not recommended following the use of herbicides.

Do not exceed 2 quarts of Redeem or 1 Quart of Remedy per acre on rangeland actively used for livestock.

### Plants Pesticide Use Warning

---Read the Label ---

Pesticides are poisonous and must be used with caution. **READ THE LABEL CAREFULLY BEFORE OPENING A CONTAINER.** Precautions and directions **MUST** be followed exactly. Special protective equipment, as indicated on the label, must be used.

**STORAGE** - Keep all pesticides in original containers only. Store separately in a locked shed or area. Keep all pesticides out of the reach of children. Unauthorized personnel, pets, and livestock. **DO NOT STORE** with foods, feeds, or fertilizers. Post warning signs on pesticide storage areas.

**USE** The suggestions given in this publication are based upon best current information. Follow directions. Measure accurately to avoid residues exceeding established tolerance. Use exact amounts as indicated on the label, or use lesser amounts as suggested in the publication. Use a pesticide only on crops, plants or animals shown on the label.

**CONTAINER DISPOSAL AND TRANSPORTATION** Consult you country agricultural commissioner for correct procedure for rinsing and disposing of empty containers. Do not transport pesticides in vehicles with foods, feeds, clothing, or other materials, and never in a closed cab with the vehicle driver.

**RESPONSIBILITY** The grower is legally responsible for proper use of pesticides, including drift to other crops or properties, and for excessive residues. Pesticides should not be applied over streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, runoff irrigation or other aquatic areas except where specific use for that purpose is intended.

**BENEFICIAL INSECTS** Many pesticides are highly toxic to honeybees and other beneficial insects. The farmer, the beekeeper, and the pest control industry should cooperate closely to keep losses of beneficial species to a minimum.

**PROCESSED CROPS** Some processors will not accept a crop treated with certain chemicals. If your crop is going to a processor, be sure to check with the processor before making a pesticide application.

**POSTING TREATED FIELDS** When worker safety re-entry intervals are established, be sure to keep workers out and post the treated areas with signs when required, indicating the safe re-entry date.

**PERMIT REQUIREMENTS** Many pesticides require a permit from the county

agricultural commissioner before possession or use. When such compounds are recommended in the publication, they are marked with an asterisk (\*).

**PLANT INJURY** Certain chemicals may cause injury or give less than optimum pest control if used at the wrong stage of plant development, in certain soil types, when temperatures are too high or too low, when the wrong formulation is used, and when excessive rates or incompatible materials are used.

**PERSONAL SAFETY** Follow label directions exactly. Avoid splashing, spilling, leaks, spray drift, or clothing contamination. **DO NOT** eat, smoke, drink, or chew while using pesticides. Provide for emergency medical care in advance.

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To simplify information trade names of products have been used. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned.

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