

Bundy blackberry

Rubus laudatus

January 2015

Bundy blackberry is a semi-deciduous, scrambling shrub with long tangled, spiny canes that form dense thickets reaching to several metres high.

Bundy blackberry is declared under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*; its sale is prohibited and land owners may be required to destroy infestations.

- **Other common names:** American blackberry, plains blackberry
- **Family:** Rosaceae
- **Synonyms:** *Rubus ablatus*
- **Origin:** North America

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Bundy blackberry has similar weedy properties to the European blackberries, but is not affected by the leaf rust biological control agent that has been released in Australia.

- forms dense, impenetrable thickets
- outcompetes most understorey plants and forms a monoculture that degrades native vegetation and pastures
- has canes with sharp thorns that can cause injuries to people and animals.





For more information

Contact your local Natural Resources Centre for information on controlling declared weeds:

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au

Further weed control information is also available at:

www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa

DESCRIPTION

Habit: a scrambling, decumbent shrub to 3 m high. **Leaves:** consist of 3-5 leaflets and are dark green on top and have a lighter green underside (the underside of European blackberry leaves are usually whitish). Leaflet veins and stalks are lined with short, curved prickles. **Roots:** are the perennial part of the plant, comprising of woody crown, with a main root that growing to a depth of 4 m and lateral roots which produce fine roots in all directions. **Stems:** are known as canes and can grow to 7 m long, covered in sharp thorns. **Flowers:** white or pink, 2-3 cm in diameter occurring at the end of the canes. **Fruit:** berry is 1-3 cm in diameter, progressing from green to red to black on maturing. Each berry consists of fleshy segments (drupelets), and each drupelet contains one seed.

HOW IT SPREADS

Bundy blackberry reproduces by seed, root suckers, and layering, and is transported by birds, foxes, and along waterways.

HABITAT

Bundy blackberry occurs in areas with fertile soils and over 750 mm annual rainfall, and invades roadsides, watercourses and streams, bushland and forests.

DISTRIBUTION

Bundy Blackberry is not yet recorded in South Australia. It is naturalised in Western Australia, Queensland and New South Wales.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Seek control advice if you have this weed. Select alternative plants to replace invasive species. Read 'Grow Me Instead' for suggestions.

Rubus laudatus fruiting cane, thorn, fruit - Photographer, Gerrit Davidse <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

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