

Weed Control Sheet

Sweet briar (*Rosa rubiginosa*)



DESCRIPTION

Sweet briar is a member of the rose family, a deciduous, upright shrub with arching branches containing backward curving prickles that can reach 3 m in height. It has an extensive shallow root system. Suckering occurs freely from the crown, and bushes often exceed 1 m in diameter at the base.



The leaves have five to seven oval leaflets, each with serrated edges. Pink to white fragrant flowers consisting of a single row of five petals, while the fruit (hips) are bright red when ripe and often have bristles. Each hip contains many small yellow seeds.

Sweet briar is a perennial woody shrub that readily establishes itself in areas of moderate soil fertility where there is little pressure from livestock.

HERBICIDES FOR CONTROL OF SWEET BRIAR

Product [#]	Method of application	State	Rate [†]
Grazon™ Extra Herbicide	Foliar spray	All	350 mL + 10 g metsulfuron/100 L of water
Ripper™ 480	Gas gun application	NSW, Vic, SA, WA, Tas	750 mL/9.25 L of water
Grazon Extra Herbicide	Foliar spray	All	500 mL/100 L of water
Tordon™ 75-D Herbicide	Foliar spray	Qld, NSW, Vic, SA, WA	650 mL/100 L of water
Access™ Herbicide	Basal bark and cut stump	All	1:60 with diesel distillate
Garlon™ 600 Herbicide	Basal bark and cut stump	All	1:30 with diesel distillate
Grazon Extra Herbicide	Gas gun application	ACT, NSW	500 mL/10 L of water
Tordon™ Granules	Granule application – hand	Vic, Qld, SA, WA	35 to 45 g/m ²

[#] Note: preferred product option in bold.

[†] Consult label for details of growth stage and use, especially where range of rates is given.

TIMING

When using foliar sprays always treat when the plant is actively growing.

Product	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Key
Grazon Extra	✗	🌀	✓	✓	🌀	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	Best time to spray ✓
Tordon Granules	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	Can spray/treat 🌀
Access Herbicide	🌀	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	🌀	✗	✗	✗	Do not spray/treat ✗

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Management strategies



HOW TO TREAT

Treating isolated patches and limited infestations

Sweet briar will not usually establish in well-managed and grazed pasture. The seedlings are quite delicate and heavy grazing with sheep is a good method of control.

Treating extensive infestations

Removal by means of dozer blades, chains or deep ploughing can be an effective method of control. As much as possible of the root system should be removed with the plant because regrowth often occurs from root pieces remaining in the soil.

Repeated cultivation will control seedlings and small re-growth as well as foliar spraying with herbicides.

FOR BEST RESULTS

Use Grazon Extra with gas gun application at a rate of 500 mL/10 L of water on sweet briar up to 1.5 m tall from full leaf to ripe fruit prior to leaf fall. Ensure a thorough wetting of the entire plant including the crown.

When using Access on sweet briar use the rate of 1 L/60 L of diesel and apply as a basal bark or cut stump application. Do not treat during winter.

When using Tordon Granules on sweet briar hand apply 35 to 45 g/m². Use the higher rate on larger bushes and on very sandy, gravelly or rocky soil and in areas where very high rainfall is usual.



FIVE TIPS FOR BEST RESULTS

1. Treated bushes should be left undisturbed for at least six months after herbicide application.
2. If using a foliar spray, treat any regrowth if it occurs when it is at least one metre tall to allow the plant to absorb sufficient herbicide for translocation to the crown and root.
3. When using a basal bark application such as Access, liberally spray or paint the bark around the stem from ground level up to 30 cm high, wetting thoroughly to the point of run-off.
4. When applying Grazon Extra as a foliar treatment, ensure you give full coverage of leaves and stems through a No. 6–8 tip at 700–1500 kPa. A spray volume of 3000–4000 L per infested hectare (30 to 40 L/100 m²) should be used.
5. Consider a dose of high-volume spray around the crown to allow direct uptake of chemical into the roots.

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