



Blackberry (*Rubus sp.*) Control Herbicide Options

Dr. E. David Dickens, *Forest Productivity Professor*; Dr. David Clabo, *Forest Productivity Professor*;
and David J. Moorhead, *Emeritus Silviculture Professor*; UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources

BRIEF

Blackberry (*Rubus spp.*) can be troublesome in many of our forest environments. It can be a competitor for sunlight, water and nutrients if there are large populations in pine stands, especially during the first 3 to 5 years. Dense blackberry infestations can also make stand accessibility difficult. Blackberry often produces edible fruit or soft mast in the spring and summer that can be a valuable food source for wildlife. From small patches to large and numerous patches, there are herbicides that work well in controlling blackberry. Blackberry is also called dewberry, raspberry and even “briars.” One needs to know (1) the environment that the blackberry is growing in (i.e., a recent cut-over site that is being prepared for planting, a post-plant scenario in the first year after planting or a post-plant scenario years after planting where the pine stand is overtopping the blackberry, or a stand where pine straw is to be harvested), (2) the pine species to be planted if a pre-plant scenario or for a post-plant scenario (need to know species and age), and (3) and site borders (i.e., mature hardwoods) or plants (woody or herbaceous) within the stand that the landowner does not want to kill.

HERBICIDES THAT CONTROL BLACKBERRY WITH STAND AND PINE SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS

There are other name brand and generic herbicides with the same active ingredient for many of the forest herbicides listed below that can be substituted for the products in this paper. The rate per acre or percent solution may change though due to different amounts of active ingredient.

1. Pre-plant to establish loblolly or slash pine

Add one of the following to the summer or fall site prep tank mix (imazapyr is the most commonly used herbicide that several other herbicides can be tank mixed with).

Escort® XP (Bayer; 60% metsulfuron methyl)

- Apply 1-2 oz Escort XP product per acre
- Pre to early post emergence

Accord® XRT II (Corteva Agriscience; 50.2% glyphosate)

- 5 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, methylated seed oil (MSO) or crop oil

Forestry Garlon® XRT (Corteva Agriscience; 83.9% ester triclopyr)

- Apply at 1-2 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil. DO NOT use with sensitive crops or trees nearby when temperature is greater than 86 degrees F

Vastlan™ (Corteva Agriscience; 54.7% choline triclopyr)

- Apply 4-6 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil

Blackberry (*Rubus sp.*) Control Herbicide Options

Garlon® 4 Ultra (Corteva Agriscience; 60.4% ester triclopyr)

- Apply 3.2 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil. DO NOT use with sensitive crops or trees nearby when temperature is greater than 86 degrees F

Trycrea® (Helena Chemical Company; 29.4% acid triclopyr)

- Apply 4-6 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil

II. Pre-plant for longleaf pine

Accord® XRT II (Corteva Agriscience; 50.2% glyphosate)

- 5 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO or crop oil

Forestry Garlon® XRT (Corteva AgriScience; 83.9% triclopyr)

- Apply at 1-2 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil. Do not use with nearby sensitive crops or trees when temperature is greater than 86 degrees F

Vastlan™ (Corteva Agriscience; 54.7% choline triclopyr)

- Apply 4-6 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil

Garlon® 4 Ultra (Corteva Agriscience; 60.4% ester triclopyr)

- Apply 3.2 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil. Do not use with sensitive crops or trees nearby when temperature is greater than 86 degrees F

Trycera® (Helena Chemical Company; 29.4% acid triclopyr)

- Apply 4-6 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil

III. Post-plant over loblolly and slash pine

Escort® XP (Bayer; 60% metsulfuron methyl)

- Apply 1/3-2 oz Escort® XP product per acre
- Pre to early post emergence

Velpar® DF (Bayer; 75% hexazinone)

- May cause pine injury or mortality where excessive rates are applied on sandy soils (>85% sand), or soils with low organic matter (<1-2%). Ensure proper sprayer calibration to apply precise herbicide rate per acre, following label recommendations regarding specific herbicide rates for various soil types
- First year weed control application product rates per acre (the same amounts can be applied in years 2, 3, and 4):
 - 1 1/3 lb Course textured soils (loamy sand, sandy loam)
 - 1 1/3 – 1 1/2 lb Medium textured soils (loam, sandy clay loam, silt, silt loam)
 - 1 1/2 - 1 4/5 lb Fine textured soils (sandy clay, silty clay loam, silty clay, clay, clay loam)
- Weed control application product rates per acre for established trees (≥ 4-yrs-old):
 - 1 1/3 – 1 2/3 lb Course textured soils
 - 1 2/3 – 2 1/3 lb Medium textured soils
 - 2 1/3 – 2 2/3 lb Fine textured soils
- Optimum timing: Pre to early post emergence (March–early May)

Blackberry (*Rubus sp.*) Control Herbicide Options

Velpar® L VU (Bayer; 25% Hexazinone)

- May cause pine injury or mortality where excessive rates are applied on sandy soils (>85% sand) and/or soils with low organic matter (<1-2%), ensure proper sprayer calibration to apply precise herbicide rate per acre, following label recommendations regarding specific herbicide rates for various soil types
- First year weed control application product rates per acre (the same amounts can be applied in years 2, 3, and 4):
 - 21 to 32 oz Coarse textured soils (loamy sand, sandy loam)
 - 24 to 40 oz Medium textured soils (loam, sandy clay loam, silt, silt loam)
 - 28 to 48 oz Fine textured soils (clay, clay loam, sandy clay, silty clay loam, silty clay)
- After fourth year weed control application product rates per acre:
 - 21 to 40 oz: Coarse-textured soils
 - 28 to 56 oz: Medium-textured soils
 - 36 to 64 oz: Fine-textured soils
- Optimum timing: Pre to early post emergence (March–early May)

Keep Velpar® applications at least a tree height from oaks and other hardwoods.

IV. Post-plant over longleaf pine

Velpar® DF VU (Bayer; 75% hexazinone)

- May cause pine injury or mortality where excessive rates are applied on sandy soils (>85% sand), and soils with low organic matter (<1 to 2% depending on soil texture) Ensure proper sprayer calibration to apply precise herbicide rate per acre, following label recommendations regarding specific herbicide rates for various soil types
- First Year weed control application product rates per acre (the same amounts can be applied in years 2, 3, and 4):
 - 1 1/3 lb: Coarse-textured soils (loamy sand, sandy loam)
 - 1 1/3 – 1 1/2 lb: Medium-textured soils (loam, sandy clay loam, silt, silt loam)
 - 1 1/2 - 1 4/5 lb: Fine-textured soils (sandy clay, silty clay loam, silty clay, clay, clay loam)
- Weed control application product rates per acre for established trees (≥ 4-yrs-old):
 - 1 1/3 – 1 2/3 lb: Coarse-textured soils
 - 1 2/3 – 2 1/3 lb: Medium-textured soils
 - 2 1/3 – 2 2/3 lb: Fine-textured soils
- Optimum timing: Pre to early post emergence (March–early May)

Velpar® L VU (Bayer; 25% Hexazinone)

- May cause pine mortality where excessive rates are applied on sandy soils (>85% sand) and/or soils with low organic matter (<1-2% depending on soil texture), ensure proper sprayer calibration to apply precise herbicide rate per acre, following label recommendations regarding specific herbicide rates for various soil types
- First Year weed control application product rates per acre (the same amounts can be applied in years two, three, and four):
 - 21 to 32 oz: Coarse-textured soils (loamy sand, sandy loam)
 - 24 to 40 oz: Medium-textured soils (loam, sandy clay loam, silt, silt loam)
 - 28 to 48 oz: Fine-textured soils (clay, clay loam, sandy clay, silty clay loam, silty clay)
- After Fourth year weed control application product rates per acre:
 - 21 to 40 oz: Coarse-textured soils
 - 28 to 56 oz: Medium-textured soils
 - 36 to 64 oz: Fine-textured soils
- Optimum timing: Pre to early post emergence (March–early May) before pine bud break

Keep Velpar® applications at least a tree height from oaks and other hardwoods.

MILESTONE™ (Corteva Agriscience; 40% Aminopyralid)

- Apply over the top in stands ages 1 through 3 years old. Application may cause some short-term needle curling, twisting, or droop.
- Use caution with applications to varying stages of longleaf growth as seedlings with exposed or elongated terminal buds may be injured
- Broadcast applications can be applied using up to 7 oz/ac
- Applications should be made when blackberry is actively growing with new shoots of growth, new foliage and during the flowering stage

Follow label directions and wear all personal protective equipment as required by the label when applying herbicides.



Photo 1 and 2: *The left photo is a cluster or clump of blackberry that is almost impenetrable to walk through without briar-britches. The photo on the right is the blackberry flowering stage. Note the new green stem growth (2-4 inches) back from the flower. This is a good time to apply most herbicides to control blackberry: in the active-growth phase.*

The University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources offers educational programs, assistance, and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, gender, or disability.

The University of Georgia is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.