



BLACKWOOD BIOSECURITY

Land Lifestyle Livelihood

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Highlight of the month!

On Thursday 25th of January, our Executive Officer Trish McCourt and Operations Officer Jason Dearle facilitated our third LaMING (Land Management Innovative Networking Group) meeting.

This networking group looks to tackle the following goals this year:

- Achieve a coordinated strategic approach to managing declared pests.
- Enhance professional relationships within the industry.
- Increase awareness of industry focus across the sector.
- Network and act as a conduit to other departments & private landholders.
- Collaborate to achieve a common goal.

Invited attendees represent not for profit groups and local and state government organisations who have an interest in land management.

The meeting on the 25th welcomed ten (10) participants representing Department of Biodiversity, Conservations and Attractions, Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Forest Products Commission, Leschenault Biosecurity Group and ourselves.

To manage declared pests properly, these networking meetings are incredibly important to the region. The meeting was considerably productive with collaborative actions identified to support management of declared pests.

**BLACKWOOD
BIOSECURITY**

LAND LIFESTYLE LIVELIHOOD
0455 522 750

- 1 WE ARE A
COMMUNITY RUN
NOT-FOR-PROFIT**
- 2 WE HELP YOU TO
MANAGE
DECLARED PESTS**
- 3 WE HAVE FREE
LOAN EQUIPMENT**
- 4 WE DO ONSITE
VISITS, WORKSHOPS
AND MORE**
- 5 WE PROVIDE
PROFESSIONAL
ADVICE**
- 6 WE CAN ADVOCATE
ON YOUR BEHALF**

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Our Work in the Field

We have been busy again this month with more K5 releases, assisting nearly 25 landholders manage rabbit populations on their properties. Whilst we have been crossing our fingers and toes hoping the weather cooperates to help spread the virus.

We have also been exceptionally busy supporting landholders with spraying large infestations of blackberries in the region.



Our Upcoming Events

Darkan Sheepfest - Saturday 10th February 2024

Blackwood Biosecurity will be participating with a stall to provide information on declared pest management to the local community. Pop over to have a chat on the day and let us help you manage declared pests.



Balingup Small Farm Field Day - Saturday 6th April 2024

Blackwood Biosecurity will be participating with a stall to provide information on declared pest management to the local community. Pop over to have a chat on the day and attend our 'Bunny Igloo' making demonstration.



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News and Information

WEEDS IN OUR REGION

Blackberry

(*Rubus anglocandicans*, *R. fruticosus*, *R. laudatus*, *R. rugosus*, and *R. ulmifolius*) is a declared pest in Western Australia (WA). The below information describes the nature of the plant pest control methods and how to search, detect and report it.

Where will you find Blackberries?

Blackberry is most common in the Perth hills, but is also found in prolific abundance the south west.

Blackberry invades pastures, riverbanks and creeklines, forming dense thickets that harbour pests such as foxes and rabbits.

Blackberry starts flowering in late spring, with white flowers noticeable by October. Other weedy blackberries start to flower in November/December.

Control Options

Physical control

Physical control either by manual (hand) or mechanical (machine) means removes biomass, but alone is rarely successful because it's hard to remove all the roots and follow-up with herbicide is recommended.

Grazing

Goats can make a start on controlling heavy infestations and prefer blackberry over improved pasture species. Sheep and cattle may graze blackberry seedlings if there is no other palatable feed around helping to stop young daughter plants from establishing. Again flow-up with herbicide is strongly recommended.

Chemical control

- Triclopyr
- Triclopyr + picloram
- Glyphosate
- Metsulfuron
- Glyphosate + Metsulfuron
- Trounce®



For further information on Blackberry control, visit <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/declared-plants/blackberry-declared-pest> or get out of the heat and pop into our air conditioned office and chat with us today.

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News and Information



Eggfruit caterpillar feeding inside a developing tomato, and the adult moth (Image source: MyPestGuide public reports).

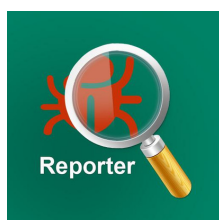
In a world of Solanaceous garden delights such as capsicums, tomatoes, chillies and eggplants, an unwelcome pest often goes unnoticed until harvest time: *Sceliodes cordalis*, more commonly known as the eggfruit caterpillar. This common garden grub has a craving for plants belonging to the Solanaceae family and can turn your hard-earned produce into a feast for their insatiable appetite.

Eggfruit caterpillars begin their journey when the small brown moth lays her tiny, white oval eggs. These eggs are predominantly laid on the stem or calyx of the developing fruit. They hatch tiny white ravenous caterpillars, which bore into the fruit through the stem or calyx. This disguises their entry point. Munching and pooing their way through the inside of the fruit, the caterpillars often turn bright pink or red in colour as they mature. Eggfruit caterpillars are particularly hard to detect as there's rarely any external signs of infestation of the fruit. These gluttonous grubs eventually chew their way out of the fruit to pupate, and later emerge as adult moths.

You can report suspicious larvae in your produce to MyPestGuide or contact the Pest and Disease Information Service by sending in photos of the larvae and cut-open fruits. Report early to keep your Solanaceous garden delights safe from unwelcome feasters!

Report a pest today!

MyPestGuide® was developed to encourage everyone (public, industry and government) to report observations of any common, interesting or possibly exotic pests, as well as the absence of pests across Australia.



Report a pest today!

Feral Scan® was developed to encourage everyone (public, industry and government) to report observations of any common, interesting or possibly exotic pests, as well as the absence of pests across Australia.



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