

13.2 Scrub control

Types of scrub

- Blackthorn and whin (European gorse) scrub are valuable wildlife and landscape features however they can be invasive.
- Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) is an invasive non-native shrub. Dense shade cast by these plants kills off all ground vegetation and toxic chemicals released by the decomposing leaves prevent other plants from regenerating.
- Spreading blackthorn, whin and rhododendron can damage important wildlife areas such as species rich grassland, woodland and lowland raised bogs and control may be required.

Scrub cannot be removed without the written permission of DARD.

Controlling scrub

- Control of scrub cannot be undertaken between 1st March and 31st August.
- Mechanical grubbing out and removal of scrub is not permitted.
- Burning of scrub is not permitted.

Blackthorn and whin/gorse

- **Blackthorn** - must be controlled by cutting stumps to 10-20cm (4-8 inches) high. Drill holes in the stump surface and fill holes with a solution of ammonium sulphamate (brand name Amcide or Root-Out) or glyphosate. This should be carried out in late autumn/winter. The stumps must not be removed.
- **Whin** - must be controlled by cutting and immediately painting the stump with glyphosate. The stumps must not be removed.

Cut material may only be burnt if it is removed from the wildlife habitat and burnt at a site agreed in writing beforehand by DARD.

Rhododendron

When controlling rhododendron, cutting back to ground level is not recommended as this results in very vigorous re-growth. Control can be by either of the two methods below:

1. Cut the rhododendron to leave 300mm (12 inch) stumps. Use a 12 - 13 mm (1/2 inch) deep hole for every square inch of the stump's surface. Fill the holes (but not overflowing) with a solution of ammonium sulphate (brand name Amcide or Root-Out).
2. Cut the rhododendron to leave a 300mm (12 inch) stump during the winter months and then spray the re-growth with glyphosate (plus a sticking agent) in May or June.

Ensure at all times when using pesticides that the manufacturers recommendations are followed and suitable protective clothing is worn.

Management plans are provided for participants in the
Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Management Schemes

