

I ndiaidh scrobarnach tiubh a bheith glanta
Following clearing of dense scrub

Raithneach i chuile áit sular cuireadh amach Asulam
Bracken dominates before treating with Asulam



Aibreán/April 2016



Iúil/July 2016

An fásra fásta arís i ndiaidh d'Asulam a bheith curtha amach agus saileachán, garbhplus agus bleachtán ag fás ann chomh maith le driseacha.

Vegetation regrowth after Asulam herbicide application composed of willowherb, cleavers and sowthistle as well as briars.



Lúnasa/August 2017



Aibreán/April 2018

Go minic bíonn deacracht mhór le Raithneach nuair a ghlantar scrobarnach eile ar nós driseacha. Cuireadh Asulam ar an bpíosa talún seo nuair a bhí scrobarnach tiubh driseacha, coll agus draighean geartha.

Frequently Bracken becomes a major issue after other scrub species such as briars have been removed. Asulam treatment followed cutting of dense scrub composed of briars, hazel and blackthorn at this site.

An gá chuile bhuaile le raithneach ann a ghlanadh?

Ní gá bheith ag baint paistí beaga raithní a fhasann i scalpa nó idir leaca aolchloiche mar nach scaipfidh an raithneach seo.

Does every field with bracken have to be cleared?

Small patches of bracken contained in grykes or crevices in limestone pavement do not pose an encroachment threat and do not have to be cleared.

Ní scaipfidh raithneach nach bhfuil ach i scalpa nó istigh idir leaca aolchloiche
Bracken confined to grykes or crevices in the limestone pavement do not pose an encroachment threat



Bileog Eolais AranLIFE: RAITHNEACH A CHOINNEÁIL SIAR

AranLIFE Information Sheet: BRACKEN CONTROL

CURTHA LE CHÉILE LE CÚNAMH IONSTRAM AIRGEADAIS LIFE AN CHOMHPHOBAIL EORPAIGH
PRODUCED WITH THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE LIFE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY



Raithneach ar Mhachair in Inis Meáin
Bracken in Machair on Inis Meáin



Raithneach go fairsing i bpíosaí de bhuaile ina bhfuil ithir dhomhain - Inis Mór
Bracken dominates parts of field with deeper soils on Inis Mór

Céard é Raithneach?

Raithneach mhór a thugtar air (Bracken) agus tá riosóm leathan (gas faoin talamh) aige atá in ann go leor cothaitheach agus carbaihiodráití a stóráil. Chomh luath agus a osclaíonn an fronn (duilleog) tosaíonn sé ag stóráil bia breise sa riosóm. Feonn na froinn seo sa bhFómhar agus súitear na cothaithe uilig síos ar ais isteach sa gcóras stórála faoin talamh, mar sin ní aon mhaith raithneach a ghearradh sa ngeimhreadh mar ní fhaightear réidh ach leis an gcuid feoite de.

What is bracken?

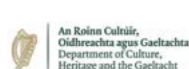
Bracken is a large fern with an extensive rhizome (underground stem) system which can store large amounts of nutrients and carbohydrates. Once the frond (leaf) has unfurled it starts to send back reserves to the rhizome. In the autumn these fronds die back and all the nutrients are re-absorbed back in to the underground storage system; therefore, cutting bracken during the winter has no effect as it is just removing dead material.

Cá bhfásann Raithneach?

- Fásann raithneach go tiubh in ithreacha domhain agus i Machair a mbíonn claí air.
- Fásann sé sa bhFéar Geimhridh freisin, in éineacht le scrobarnach nó áit a mbíonn foscadh ó chlaíoch aige.
- D'fhéadfadh sé fás in éineacht le scrobarnach ar nós driseacha agus draighean agus gan aon deacracht a bheith leis go dtí go bhfaightear réidh leis an scrobarnach.

Where does bracken occur?

- Bracken forms dense stands on deeper soils and on walled Machair.
- Less dense stands occur in Winterages in the shelter of walls or in combination with scrub species.
- Bracken may occur in combination with other scrub species such as briars and blackthorn and only becomes an issue when the other scrub species are removed.



Cén fáth go gcaitheann muid raithneach a choinneáil siar?

- D'fhéadfadh raithneach speicis eile a scáthú agus a phlúchadh agus cur as dá bpéacadh, dá mbunú agus dá bhfás agus d'fhéadfadh sé plandaí eile féir a loic agus a líon a laghdú.
- Tarraingíonn an riosóm dlúth a bhíonn aige faoin talamh na cothaithigh as an ithir agus coinneáil siar speicis eile.
- Ní ghlactar le talamh a mbíonn clúdach tiubh raithní air i scéimeanna talmhaíochta a mhaoiníonn an AE.
- Bíonn sceartáin freisin sa raithneach agus d'fhéadfadh duine an galar Lyme's a fháil astu sin agus beithigh an buine dearg.

Why do we need to control bracken?

- Bracken can interfere with the germination, establishment and growth of other species through shading and smothering and causes grassland plants to die back and reduce in cover.
- The dense underground rhizome drains nutrients from the soil and inhibits other species.
- Land covered in dense bracken is not eligible for EU funded agricultural schemes.
- Bracken also harbours ticks which are vectors for Lyme's disease in humans and Redwater in livestock.



Cá bhfásann Raithneach?

Má ghearrtar an raithneach nó má chuirtear luibhicíd air is féidir é a choinneáil siar. **Cibé cén modh a roghnaítear, caithfear é a dhéanamh roinnt babhtai leis an raithneach a smachtú.**

Gearradh

Gearrtar an raithneach sa gcaoi nach mbeidh aon chothaithigh ag an ngas faoin talamh agus nach mbeidh sé in ann bia a stóráil. In imeacht ama tabharfaidh an raithneach uaidh go mór dá bharr seo.

- Ní mór raithneach a ghearradh faoi dhó sa mbliain le é a choinneáil siar.
- Ba cheart an chéad ghearradh a dhéanamh i dtreo dheireadh na **Bealtaine/tús an Mheithimh** nuair a osclaíonn na froinn i dtosach.
- Ba cheart an raithneach a ghearradh arís 6 seachtainí ina dhiaidh sin nuair a bhíonn sé fásfa arís go dtí an pointe céanna.
- Is rogha amháin é an gearradh, ach is féidir freisin é chur ar gcúl má tharraingítear é nó má bhrítear an gais trí rolladh, ach bíonn sé seo le déanamh arís 6 seachtainí ina dhiaidh sin nuair a bhíonn froinn nua ar an raithneach.
- I ndiaidh é a ghearradh ba cheart carnán a dhéanamh de agus é a dhó sa gcaoi nach gcuirfidh an t-ualach trom anuas ina mhullach as don fhásra féir a bhíonn faoi.
- Ní mór coinneáil á ghearradh sna blianta ina dhiaidh sin le é a smachtú ceart.

How to control bracken?

Control can be achieved by cutting or herbicide application. **Whatever method is chosen, repeat treatment will be necessary for bracken control.**

Cutting

The aim of cutting is to deprive the underground stem of nutrients and prevent the bracken building up reserves. Over time this will weaken the bracken greatly.

- Cut bracken twice a year to control it.
- First cut must take place in late **May/early June** when fronds first unfurl.
- Second cut must take place approximately 6 weeks later when bracken regrowth is at the same stage.
- Whilst cutting is one option, damaging bracken by pulling or breaking the stalks by rolling, is also an effective alternative, but again needs to be repeated 6 weeks later when the fern has sent up new fronds.
- After cutting, the brash should be piled and burnt, so that a thick layer of dead fronds does not inhibit the underlying grassland vegetation.
- **Recutting is necessary in subsequent years for effective control.**

Bhí clúdach tiubh raithní sa mbuaile seo ar dtús, ansin gearradh faoi dhó sa mbliain i 2015, 2016 agus 2017 é. Caithfear coinneáil á ghearradh sna blianta atá ag teacht le smacht ceart a fháil air.
Originally with dense bracken cover, this field was cut twice yearly in 2015, 2016 and 2017. It is vital that bracken treatment is implemented in subsequent years to gain effective control.



Buaile ina raibh clúdach tiubh raithní agus ar gearradh an raithneach inti faoi dhó sa mbliain ar feadh 3 bliana
Field with dense cover of bracken treated with bracken cutting twice a year for 3 years



Luibhicíd

Is ábhar contúirteach iad na luibhicídí uilig agus níor mhór a bheith cúramach leo. Mura n-úsáidtear luibhicídí i gceart, i dtimpeallacht ardíogair ar nós Oileán Árann, d'fhéadfadh deacrachtaí áirithe teacht as, d'fhéadfadh gnáthóga a bheith millte, ceimiceáin dul isteach sa screamhuisce nó uisce dromchla agus, go fíorannamh, d'fhéadfaí dochar a dhéanamh do shláinte an duine. Mar sin ba cheart chuile bhealach smachta eile a thriail ar dtús sula n-úsáidtear luibhicídí.

I gcás clampaí dlúth, tá dhá luibhicíd ann gur féidir a úsáid leis an raithneach a choinneáil siar: Asulam agus Gliofosáit. Is luibhicíd sistéamach é an Gliofosáit agus maróidh sé an fásra uilig in éineacht leis an raithneach. Is luibhicíd roghnaitheach é an Asulam a dhéanann níos lú dochair d'fhásra a bheadh faoin raithneach, ach d'fhéadfadh sé dochar a dhéanamh do roinnt féara agus luibheanna. I measc na speiceas a mbeadh sé furasta dochar a dhéanamh dóibh bheadh féar an chinn bháin, timóid, garbhfhéar, feoranna, cuise bliantúil, nóinín, copóga, slánlusanna, mórán agus chuile chineál raithneach. Is speicis coitianta iad seo uilig sna féara cailcreacha ar na hoileáin.

- Ní mór cead roimh ré a fháil ón tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra le luibhicíd a chur amach i Limistéar Caomhantais Speisialta.
- **Ní mór é a chur amach sna cúpla bliain ina dhiaidh sin le smacht a fháil ar an raithneach.**

Herbicide

All herbicides are hazardous materials and require careful management. In a highly sensitive environment like the Aran Islands, improper use of herbicides can lead to specific problems such as damage to the habitat, entering of chemicals into the groundwater or surface water and in rare circumstances possible human health issues. Therefore herbicides should be the last choice of action after other control measures have been considered.

For particularly dense stands, there are two herbicides that can be used to control bracken: Asulam and Glyphosate. Glyphosate is a systemic herbicide and will kill all vegetation alongside the bracken. Asulam is selective herbicide and has less of an effect on underlying vegetation, though some grasses and herbs may be also damaged by Asulam. The more sensitive species include yorkshire fog, timothy, cock's foot, bents, annual meadow grass, daisy, docks, plantains, saxifrage and all other ferns. All of these species are common components of the calcareous grasslands on the islands.

- Herbicide application within SAC's (Special Areas of Conservation) requires prior consent from NPWS (National Parks and Wildlife Service).
- **Retreatment in subsequent years is necessary for effective bracken control.**