

Dear Members of South African Forestry Contractors Association,

Please can you help me with some information regarding management of American bramble in South African Forestry Plantations. American bramble (*Rubus* species) is a thorny scrambling plant introduced from America into South Africa where it is invading natural vegetation, grazing lands and forestry plantations. Dense stands of bramble smother young plantation trees, the thorns and scrambling nature make access into plantations difficult, increasing costs of plantation management and hampering silviculture. The Agricultural Research Council and the Centre for Biological Control are working together to investigate a natural enemy of American bramble that might assist South Africa's efforts to manage this problematic invasive plant.

Please would you be able to provide me with information from Forestry Contractors with regards to the amount of effort and funding they spend on managing American bramble?

Thank you

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