

Montpellier broom

Genista monspessulana

Family

Fabaceae (pea)

Also known as

Teline monspessulana, *Cytisus canariensis*, *Cytisus monspessulana*, Cape broom, Canary broom, soft broom, leafy broom, French broom

Where is it originally from?

Europe

What does it look like?

Usually evergreen shrub (<2.5 m tall) with round, ribbed and softly hairy twigs, and ridged, woody, grey-brown stems. Leaves arranged alternately on stems, divided into three, with each leaflet (7-20 x 4-10 mm) usually hairy. Yellow to golden-yellow pea-like flowers (9-13 mm long, May-Nov) are followed by oblong, densely hairy seed pods (18-20 mm long) containing 3-6 round, flattened, green to black seeds (2.5 mm diameter).

Are there any similar species?

Cytisus scoparius, other ornamental broom species, tree lucerne, white broom, and *Teline stenopetala* are similar.

Why is it weedy?

Prolific seeder, flowers within two years, and grows and spreads rapidly. Tolerates cold to hot temperatures, most soil types, high-to-low rainfall, grazing and damage, and fire stimulates the long-lived seed.

How does it spread?

Explosive seed mechanism spreads seed 1-5 m from the parent plant, and it is also spread by machinery and soil and water movement. Quarries, roadsides, forest tracks, metal dumps, fire breaks, exotic forests, skid sites, riverbeds, domestic gardens, and disturbed land are all common seed sources.

What damage does it do?

Forms pure stands in many habitat types. Dominates low canopy habitats, preventing the seedlings of native species from establishing. Increased nitrogen in gumland and other impoverished soil types may induce the growth of forest species to the detriment of specialised plants eg. orchids, ferns, herbs, etc, or encourage further weed invasions.

Which habitats is it likely to invade?

River systems, shrublands, forest margins, coastline, tussockland, fernland, gumlands, regenerating and disturbed forest, exotic plantations, poor pasture, and bare land.

What can I do to get rid of it?

1. Hand pull or dig small plants (all year round). Ensure minimum soil disturbance.
2. Cut down and paint stump (all year round): metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (5g/L) or triclopyr 600 EC (50ml/L).
2. Spray (spring-summer): triclopyr 600 EC (30ml/10L) or triclopyr 120g/L (15ml/L).

CAUTION: When using any herbicide or pesticide, PLEASE READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY to ensure that all instructions and directions for the purchase, use and storage of the product, are followed and adhered to.

What can I do to stop it coming back?

Resprouts after slashing. Colonises bare areas, reinvades after non-



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Photo: Trevor James



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selective spraying, fire or soil disturbance. Not long-lived, relying on seedling replacement. A light lover, so can be succeeded in tall canopy habitats by taller native species where their seedlings exist. These sites can be left, or regeneration rate can be increased by slashing, selective spraying or replanting of shade-creating species. Clear roads, metal dumps, quarries. Maintain pest and livestock control, as plant is not browsed as readily as native species and recovers more quickly from browsing.



Photo: Trevor James