

Broom

(*Cytisus scoparius*)

Is Broom on your property?

Broom is included in Horizon's Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy as a Boundary Control plant. Broom will largely be managed through a boundary control regime and enforcement will be request driven. Efforts to maintain clean land should be recognised and regulations enforcing boundary clearance will be adhered to. If you see any sites of infestation, please freephone 0508 800 800.



Unless otherwise stated, the photos used in this publication have been sourced from the world wide web. Copyright approval has been sought where possible and appropriate.

Identification

Erect, much-branched, almost leafless deciduous shrub to 2.5 m. Woody rootstock. Stems woody, green, hairless and flexible with 5 ribs. Leaves trifoliolate. Golden-yellow pea-like flowers are solitary or paired, from September -April. Oblong seed pods, green turning black, explode dispersing seeds leaving empty coils.

Weedy characteristics

Tolerates heat and cold, most well-drained soils, grazing, fire and high to low rainfall. Prolific seeder and flowers within two years.

Methods of dispersal

Explosive dispersal mechanism spreads seeds 1-5 m. Spread by machinery, soil and water.

Impact on indigenous plants

Can form dense stands in many habitats, dominating low canopies preventing regenerating of native species. Nitrogenous roots may encourage forest types of plants to the detriment of specialised plants.

Typical habitats

Waste and disturbed land, in exotic forests, riverbeds and domestic gardens, tussock, wetlands, sand dunes and regenerating bush.

Control

1. Introduce biocontrol agents where possible.
2. Pull or dig small plants, with minimal soil disturbance. Mulch. All year.
3. Stump swab: Grazon or Escort or Stump Stick at rates on label. All year.
4. Spray: Grazon at label rates. Spring and summer.
5. Wick wiper: Grazon, 20%. Spring and summer.

Site management

First of all establish that it is not the native broom. Where it is shaded by taller species it can be left, but slashed or selectively sprayed to speed regeneration or native species. Clear roads, metal dumps. Control animal pests and livestock as broom is not grazed as readily as other plants.

Species recovery

Sprouts readily after slashing. Colonises bare land and reinvades after non-selective spraying, fire or soil disturbance. Not long-lived relying on self seeding.

For more information freephone 0508 800 800.

