

What does it look like?

Broom is an upright, many-branched, almost leafless woody shrub, reaching up to 3m tall. It is a perennial plant, with a stout taproot. Leaves are sparse, mostly narrow and simple. It has golden-yellow flowers in spring that are 2.5cm long, and produces seed pods in summer which are black when ripe and explode loudly on warm days, scattering the seed.

Broom grows in river beds, hedgerows, low-fertility hill country, scrubland, coastal and disturbed land. It is tolerant of a wide range of conditions including drought and frost, but requires good drainage.



Why is it a problem?

Broom is an aggressive invasive shrub that seeds prolifically, with each pod producing nine seeds and usually more than 2000 pods/bush. These seeds can still be viable after five years.

This means that not only will broom displace native species which would normally grow there, it also makes control difficult as it needs to be managed regularly (seedlings pulled out) while trying to establish native bush.



Control Methods

Physical control

Check the plant is not native broom (*Carmichaelia sp.*). Hand pull or dig out small plants (all year round). Minimise soil and therefore seed bank disturbance. Leave on site to rot down.

Herbicide control

Cut stems as close to the ground as possible and apply picloram gel (43g/L strength) or metsulfuron gel (10g/L strength) to the cut stems.

Foliar spray from late spring to late autumn using a knapsack sprayer for small areas and plants <1m tall, or gun and hose for larger infestations. In all cases, add a penetrant at the label rate. Herbicide options:

Apply glyphosate (360g/L active ingredient) at 20ml/L of water. Or,
Apply metsulfuron (600g/kg active ingredient) at 0.5g/L of water - handheld sprayer rate / 35g/100L of water - gun and hose rate.

CAUTION: When using any herbicide or pesticide, PLEASE READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

Related Links

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=3839

NZ Flora <http://www.nzflora.info/factsheet/Taxon/Cytisus-scoparius.html>

Weedbusters <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/broom/>

Broom gall mite <https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/discover-our-research/managing-invasive-species/weed-biocontrol/projects-agents/biocontrol-agents/broom-gall-mite>

Broom leaf beetle <https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/discover-our-research/managing-invasive-species/weed-biocontrol/projects-agents/biocontrol-agents/broom-leaf-beetle>

Broom psyllid <https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/discover-our-research/managing-invasive-species/weed-biocontrol/projects-agents/biocontrol-agents/broom-psyllid>

Broom seed beetle <https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/discover-our-research/managing-invasive-species/weed-biocontrol/projects-agents/biocontrol-agents/broom-seed-beetle>

Broom shoot moth <https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/discover-our-research/managing-invasive-species/weed-biocontrol/projects-agents/biocontrol-agents/broom-shoot-moth>

Broom twig miner <https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/discover-our-research/managing-invasive-species/weed-biocontrol/projects-agents/biocontrol-agents/broom-twig-miner>