

## Don't let them get away!

Invasive weeds are most effectively controlled when they and their numbers are small – a little weed control work today will save many dollars and days of work in years to come. Now is the time to take action!

## Control that weed!

Control methods for brooms may include a combination of mechanical control, burning, selective grazing, the selective application of herbicides and ongoing monitoring.

Smaller plants can be removed by **hand pulling**.

Larger areas of broom seedlings (5-10cm tall) may be effectively controlled by **slashing**. **Grazing** of seedlings by sheep or goats can also play a part in an integrated weed management program.

Larger thickets may be **slashed**, and the later regrowth sprayed with an appropriate herbicide and wetting agent. **Fire** can also be used to clear larger patches of broom, after consulting your local fire authority, and will stimulate the sprouting of soil-borne seed – these seedlings and any regrowth can later be treated with chemicals.

A number of **herbicides** are listed for control of brooms within Tasmania – these include chemical control agents with the active ingredient being glyphosate, triclopyr, triclopyr/picloram/amino pyralid and metsulfuron methyl. Different herbicides have different uses – these chemicals may be used as foliar sprays, for cut and painting stumps or for applying to basal bark on larger plants – consult the DPIPWE Broom Service Sheet for more details. **Always read and follow the label**, wear protective equipment, and avoid off-target damage during chemical control.

Areas where plants have been removed should be monitored (seeds may remain viable in the soil for up to 16 years), and any seedlings controlled.

The best solution for your site will vary with the type and intensity of infestation – for advice and more details on control methods, consult the DPIPWE website ([www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/weeds](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/weeds))

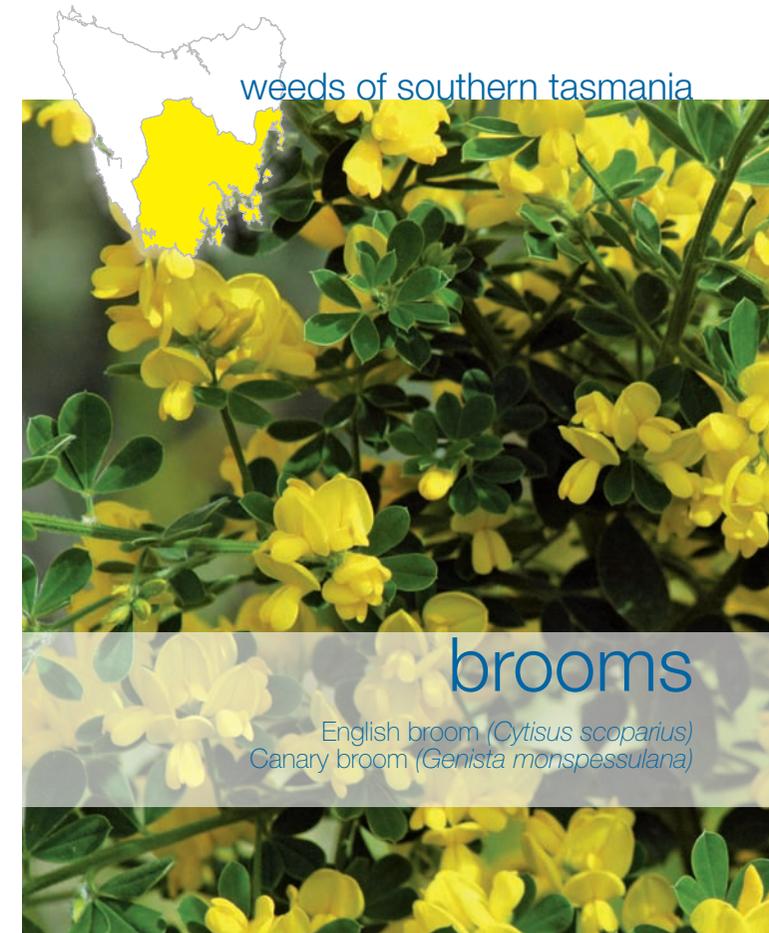
## Do the right thing

Weed waste dumped in bushland or local reserves gives pest plants a leg-up into new areas. Do the right thing, and dispose of your weed waste responsibly. Seed bearing waste should be left on site, and burnt if possible. Consult your local fire authority.

Weeds are easily spread by contaminated machinery and people – check your clothes, shoes and vehicles for soil or plant matter that could be carrying weedy plant seeds.

## Get informed

Brooms are significant weed threats for Southern Tasmania. For more information on brooms, contact your local Council office or call DPIPWE on 1300 368 550.



### Also known as

*Cytisus scoparius* – Scottish broom, Spanish broom  
*Genista monspessulana* – Montpellier broom, Cape broom

### Impacts

Invades roadsides, plantations, agricultural systems and native bush.  
 Decreases native biodiversity

### Current distribution in Southern Tasmania

Widespread across the region particularly in wetter areas



weed warning

# brooms



## Background

English broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and Canary broom (*Genista monspessulana*), both European natives, are thought to have been introduced to Australia as ornamental or hedging plants. Widely planted across the country, they have since become persistent weeds of settled areas over much of south-eastern Australia.

Both are problem plants within Tasmania. Both broom species are invaders of disturbed land, including roadsides, poorly managed pastures, areas of disturbed native bush, and disused areas. These plants do better in areas with higher rainfall, but are quite capable of invading drier regions.

Brooms produce many hard coated seeds which are released explosively from pods, and are easily spread further afield on dirty equipment or vehicles, by water, in contaminated soil, by ants or in the digestive tracts of animals.

Once established in an area, they can form dense thickets that colonise pasture, reducing the feed available to livestock. The seeds and foliage of broom are also known to be poisonous to stock if consumed in sufficient quantity. Such thickets can also impede access both in areas of cultivation and native ecosystems. Brooms push out native plant species, diminish available habitat for native animals, and can provide shelter for pest species such as rabbits.

## Get a positive ID

Both English and canary brooms are upright, semi-woody shrubs that grow to approximately 2-3m.

English broom is deciduous, and has long, green, five-sided stems, that often bear few or no leaves over most of the year. When leaves are present, they are trifoliolate (made up of three leaflets – like clover), with the central leaflet being the longest. The flowers of English broom are a golden yellow pea-type flower, which sometimes show a hint of red on their lower petals. These flowers occur singly, and are generally found on the plant from late spring to summer. The flowers form dark brown to black seed pods 4-5cm long, which contain 6-18 yellow to yellow brown seeds.

Canary broom is evergreen, holding its leaves year-round. Although stems may be ridged, they are not five-sided. Leaves may be trifoliolate or single. Canary broom bears flowers in clusters of 3-7 – these pea-type flowers are a bright, canary yellow, and appear from late winter to spring. The 2-2.5cm long seedpods are smaller than those of English broom, are covered in fine hairs, and contain 5-8 black seeds.

These plants spread almost exclusively by seed, and are aided by disturbance, doing especially well in areas bare of vegetation and after fire.

If you are uncertain whether a plant you have found is a weedy broom species, collect a sample of it in a sealed bag and contact your local Council office or a DPIPWE representative.

## Weed management – it's your responsibility

Many people unwittingly harbour pest plants in their gardens – some even actively grow them, knowing nothing of their weedy ways.

These two species of brooms are declared weeds under Tasmania's *Weed Management Act 1999*. It is your responsibility to control these broom species on your land. Failure to remove them from your property could result in legal action. It is also illegal to distribute these plants or their seeds in any way, whether as cut flowers, in contaminated feed, on livestock or on dirty equipment.

## Selling a declared weed

Despite being a declared weed English and canary broom may occasionally be found for sale at nurseries and local markets. This is illegal. If you see either of these brooms for sale at market stalls or nurseries, contact your local Council office or a DPIPWE representative.

### Weeds are a growing problem.

**Act now – make a plan and make a start!**

### Images:

1. English broom – flowers and stems
2. Canary broom – flowers and trifoliolate leaves
3. Fine haired seed pods of canary broom