

Get to know...

Scotch Broom

Cytisus scoparius

Why is Scotch Broom a problem?

- Broom is an attractive plant that was deliberately planted in many gardens in the past.
- It is a very invasive weed that can dominate pastures, reducing access and pasture availability.
- Broom is a serious environmental weed that has dominated native vegetation in some national parks and protected areas – plants live up to 25 years.
- Seeds may be transported in mud attached to vehicles, footwear or animals, or along watercourses in flood.
- Produces up to 50,000 seeds per square metre so control is costly and difficult if plants are allowed to establish.
- Seeds and leaves are poisonous if eaten in quantity.
- Leaves may cause digestive problems in horses.



Top right: Broom flowers densely in spring and even very young plants may produce flowers and seeds.



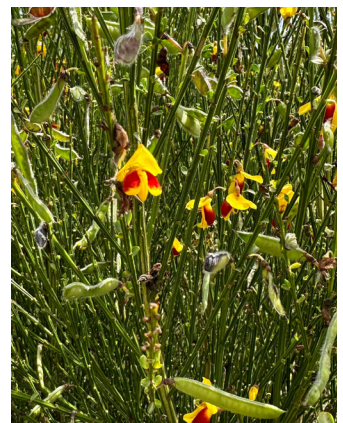
Above left: Scotch broom pods have hairy margins and are green at first. The flowers are bright yellow and pea-like.



Above right: The ripe pods are brown to black.



Above left: Scotch broom has small trifoliate leaves similar to clovers and medics. Plants may appear almost leafless from a distance.



Above right: Scotch broom flowers are usually bright yellow but may also be pink or yellow and red

For information on how to identify and control weeds contact the Biosecurity team.

24/7 Customer service line

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As with all weeds, prevention is the best control option. Maintain good farm hygiene to prevent the introduction of new weeds to your property and ensure a vigorous perennial ground cover at all times to reduce the ability of weeds to become established.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTROLLING SCOTCH BROOM

- Check that any broom plants in your garden are one of the non-seeding varieties.
- Replace English/Scotch broom plants in your garden with other flowering natives.
- Small isolated plants can be dug out; larger isolated plants can be controlled using the cut and paint method. For larger infestations, foliar spraying is the most effective method.
- After removal check each year for any new germinations of broom and maintain control work.
- Avoid driving or walking through broom infestations.
- Watercourses are a priority for control because broom can spread rapidly along these corridors.
- Fire effectively kills plants but also encourages germinations of seeds so it must be followed up with further control.

Further information: www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au or <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

CHEMICAL CONTROL OPTIONS

WARNING: Always read the label and any applicable permit before opening and using herbicides.

Herbicides are most effective when incorporated into an integrated weed management plan. The following chemicals and rates are provided as a guide only. Seek expert advice before commencing broadacre control as optimal herbicide rates can vary significantly depending on soil types and pasture conditions.

Product trade names are supplied on the understanding that no preference between equivalent products is implied, and the inclusion of a product does not imply endorsement by SMRC over any other equivalent product from another manufacturer. The below is a selection of available chemical options. See NSW WeedWise for more options.

Chemical	Rate: Spot/Boom	Comments
Glyphosate 360 g/L (Various products)	Spot Spray 100–130 mL per 10 L of water	Foliar spot spray application.
Picloram 100 g/L + Triclopyr 300 g/L + Aminopyralid 8 g/L (Grazon Extra®)	Spot Spray 250 or 350 mL in 100 L of water	Lower rate when actively growing mid-summer to pod formation. Higher rate for autumn-winter treatment.
Picloram 44.7 g/L + Aminopyralid 4.47 g/L (Vigilant II ®)	Cut stump/stem injection Undiluted	Apply a 3–5 mm layer of gel for stems less than 20 mm. Apply 5 mm layer on stems above 20 mm.
Triclopyr 300 g/L + Picloram 100 g/L	Spot spray 250 or 350 mL per 100 L water	Lower rate when actively growing mid-summer to pod formation. Higher rate for autumn-winter treatment.
Triclopyr 600 g/L (Garlon® 600)	Spot Spray 170 mL per 100 L of water	Spring to mid-summer prior to pod formation. Spray actively growing plants Thoroughly cover all the foliage and stems to the point of runoff.

NSW WeedWise can be accessed as web pages or as a smartphone app

