

# Cape Broom or Montpellier Broom



## State Priority Weed

Under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*, all landholders have a "General Biosecurity Duty" to manage any "Biosecurity Risk" posed or likely to be posed by Priority Weeds. These weeds can impact on human health, the economy, the liveability of our City and the environment.

Impacts can include allergies and other health issues, costs of control, loss of tourism value, degradation of natural landscapes, parks and recreation facilities, reduction of useful agricultural land and loss of primary production, loss of biodiversity and water quality.

## A WEED OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The plant must be eradicated from the land and be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed; and the land must be kept free of the plant.

### SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Genista monspessulana*  
(Family: Fabaceae)

- HABIT** Woody, perennial, many-branched shrub growing 3 m to 4 m. The plant remains green and leafy throughout the year.
- LEAVES** Leaves are small and have three leaflets. They are larger, softer and much more profuse than those of Scotch Broom.
- FLOWERS** Flowering spring and summer. Yellow pea flowers are smaller than Scotch Broom but very numerous, in clusters on the ends of the branchlets.
- FRUITS** The seed pod is brown, densely hairy and smaller than that of Scotch Broom. Seeds are hard, black and shiny. Cape Broom produces up to 6000 seeds per plant per year.



Photo source: D. Whiteman



Photo source: D Hardin, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney

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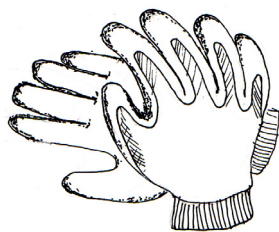
State Priority Weed

<b>DISPERSAL</b>	Explosive release of seeds around parent plant and other small animals and by ants which carry seeds to their nests. Cape Broom is also spread in dumped garden waste and through movement of contaminated soil.
<b>IMPACTS</b>	Cape Broom is a highly invasive weed that displaces native groundcover species and shrubs reducing biodiversity and habitat value.
<b>CURRENT DISTRIBUTION</b>	Mt Victoria to Lapstone.

## CONTROL

- Small plants can be hand pulled quite easily due to the shallow root system. Make sure all parts of the root system are removed.
- Larger plants may need to be cut and painted using herbicide.

It is best to treat plants before they produce seed pods (after flowering). If you can't, bag the seed pods and dispose in green bin. Other parts of the plant can be picked up and spread out off the ground to dry and break down.



Hand Removal



Cut and Paint

Control illustrations by Anne Carey

<b>PLANT THIS INSTEAD</b>	In the Upper Mountains – similar habit plants are <i>Banksia marginata</i> , <i>Banksia ericifolia</i> , <i>Banksia spinulosa</i> , <i>Lambertia formosa</i> , Native Daisy ( <i>Olearia</i> spp.) In the lower Mountains – Christmas Bush, <i>Olearia</i> spp. and <i>Ozothamnus diosmifolius</i> .
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**Blue Mountains City Council**  
Weed Management Team  
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[bmcc.nsw.gov.au/weeds](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/weeds)

NEW SOUTH WALES  
WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM



**BLUE MOUNTAINS - NO PLACE FOR WEEDS**