

 **GORSE AND
BROOM HILL
PRIORITY AREA**

Control options

Chemical

Many herbicides are not effective on gorse because of the shape of the 'leaves' and the thick cuticles on the spines, which help prevent absorption of herbicides. Contact your local contractor or agrichemical supplier to find the best product and/or application method for your situation.

Application methods

- Cut stump and apply a suitable herbicide
- Knapsack
- Gun and hose
- Aerial
- Apply a granular herbicide to individual plants

Mechanical

- Trimming
- Mowing
- Grubbing
- Rotary slashers



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Gorse and broom are widespread and scattered across Canterbury. We are focusing our efforts on the hill and high country zone shown above. ”

More information

www.ecan.govt.nz/pests
(pages 47 to 49, 56 to 58)



Contact us on:
0800 324 636 or
biosecurity@ecan.govt.nz

E18/6756

Gorse & Broom

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Gorse

(Ulex europaeus)

Broom

*(Cytisus multiflorus;
Cytisus scoparius;
Teline monspessulana
Spartium junceum)*

PEST STATUS:

Sustained Control Programme

The objective of this programme is to prevent gorse and broom spreading to areas that are currently free from, or being cleared of, gorse and broom.

Why are gorse and broom pests?

Gorse and broom are widespread and scattered across land throughout Canterbury. Both plants can form dense stands that prevent stock from grazing infested areas. Seeds may survive in the soil for more than 50 years.

Gorse and broom are agricultural pests, but can also cause problems in forestry, braided rivers and protected natural areas.

Who is responsible for control?

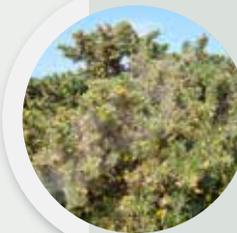
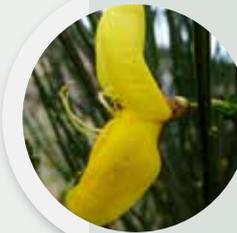
Rural land occupiers in certain areas (see map overleaf) must control gorse and broom patches of 50sqm or less unless the occupier is the Crown.

In addition, rural land occupiers throughout Canterbury (including the Crown) must follow the Good Neighbour Rule i.e. protect neighbouring properties by keeping boundaries 10m clear of gorse and broom. Also, boundary hedges should be trimmed annually.

Environment Canterbury will enforce rules for gorse and broom only where there is a potential impact on productive land (i.e. economic impacts) or where natural biodiversity is being protected and could be impacted. Urban properties are not typically inspected.

DID YOU KNOW...

Government officials in the 1800s encouraged planting gorse hedgerows because they provided cheap fencing and shelter in areas prone to snow and cold winds.



What does broom look like?

Broom is a deciduous shrub which grows up to 2.5m tall. It is most recognisable by its distinctive upright green stems. Broom normally grows in areas of high rainfall and can tolerate a wide range of soil conditions.

Flowers

- > Large yellow flowers
- > Flowers bloom October to November

Fruit/Seed

- > Brownish-black flattened seed pods - similar to gorse.
- > Seeds are ejected from their pods to up to 10m away.

Leaf

- > Pliable, upright, ridged green stems that may have small leaves.
- > However, broom stems may also be leafless.

What does gorse look like?

Gorse is a deep-rooted woody perennial that can grow up to 4m high.

Flowers

- > Yellow pea-like flowers.

Fruit/Seed

- > Brownish-black flattened seed pods.
- > Seeds are ejected from their pods to up to 10m away.

Leaf

- > Seedlings' leaves are initially made up of three 'leaflets'.
- > Later, the leaves of gorse take the form of sharp spines.