

Genista monspessulana

[illegible][illegible]

Cape broom

Genista monspessulana

Environmental Weed

FLOWERS:

Bright yellow to golden-yellow pea-like flowers (8-12mm long) and occur singly or in clusters at leaf axils or branch tips. Flowering occurs from May to November with a second flowering in late summer in ideal conditions.

LEAVES:

The leaves are arranged alternately on stems, have short stalks and are divided into three relatively broad hairy leaflets (5-30mm long). The upper surface of the leaflets is bright green and slightly hairy, while the underside has a thicker coating of hair.

STEMS:

Short branched grey-brown woody stem that is ridged and softly hairy with round, ribbed and softly hairy twigs.

SEED:

Seed pods are 25mm oblong, flat, brown and hairy. The seed pods containing 3-6 round, flattened, green to black seeds explode open in warm weather dispersing seed several metres. A large proportion of the seed is initially dormant and can survive in the soil for over 5 years. Seeds germinate in autumn and spring.

LIFECYCLE:

An upright (i.e. erect) and spreading evergreen shrub usually growing 1-2m tall, but occasionally reaching up to 3m high. Mainly spread through seed movement on earthmoving equipment, farm machinery and as a seed contaminant in agricultural and forestry products. Plants live for 10 to 15 years and have a deep, branching tap root.

CONTROL:

Non-chemical control: Hand pulling small juvenile plants. mulching larger infestations. Avoid mulching when seed pods are mature.

Chemical control:

- Cut and paint,
- Drill and fill,
- Spray

(ALL herbicides applications should be carried out as stated within the manufacturers guidelines and the current chemical Material Data Safety Sheets.)