

# INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

## French broom (*Genista monspessulana*)

### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

#### DESCRIPTION

- Native to the Mediterranean region.
- French broom is a large, perennial, leafy evergreen shrub
- It grows up to 3 metres tall with a deep, branching taproot.
- Mature main stem is grey and hairless, with ascending secondary green stems densely covered with short, soft, silvery hairs and a nearly round cross-section (8-10 ridged).
- Leaves (10-20 mm long) are alternate, in groups of three leaflets, leaflets are oblong and covered with short, silvery hairs.

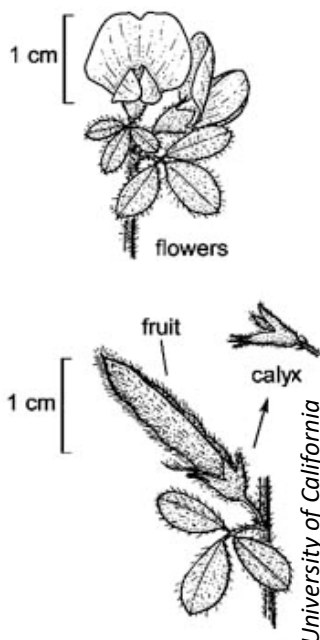


- Flowers (1.5-8 mm long) are yellow, pea-shaped, and in small clusters of 4-10 on the end of short branchlets
- The two-part flower base (calyx) is silky-hairy, the upper lip deeply 2-toothed and the longer lower lip indistinctly 3-toothed.
- Seed pods (1-3 cm long) are brown, slightly flattened and covered with long, silky hairs (1.5-2.5 cm long); 3-8 seeds per pod.

**PRIMARY THREAT: Outcompetes beneficial plants and increases wildfire fuel hazards.**



Pea-shaped flower held by a two-part hairy calyx



#### BIOLOGY & SPREAD

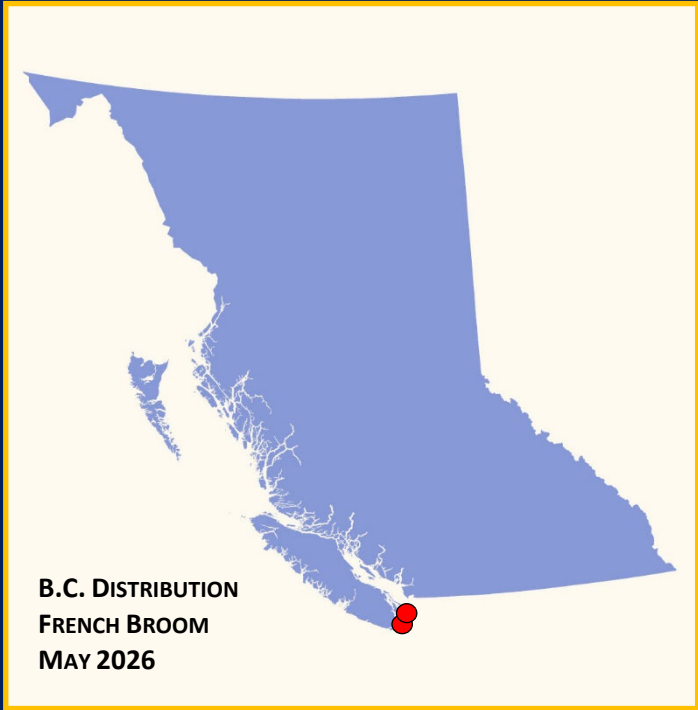
- Reproduces via seed at 2-3 years, single plants can produce over 8,000 seeds a year.
- Flowers March to July, appearing just before new leaves.
- Plants can resprout from cut, grazed, or burned root crowns.
- Local dispersal via exploding seed pods (4 metres from parent plant), animal fur, water surface flow, vehicles, mowing and grading.
- Long distance spread via contaminated soil, gravel, equipment, and possibly gardeners.
- Seeds remain viable in the soil up to 30 years.

For more information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content?id=ECF57097F729403A8F2A464EBF09B7FE>



# French broom (*Genista monspessulana*)



## DISTRIBUTION & Status

- Management goal is provincial eradication.
- Limited occurrences in the Capital region of B.C.

## HABITAT

- Drought tolerant, prefers open canopy and well-drained soils.
- Tolerates a broad range of site types, does not require disturbance to establish or spread.
- Most likely to thrive in temperate coastal and interior regions.



8-10 Ridged X-section



## REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



[www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species](http://www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species)

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Learn** to identify
- **REPORT** new sightings
- **Use** weed-free grass seed, soil, and gravel



For more information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content?id=ECF57097F729403A8F2A464EBF09B7FE>



# Broom Identification and Look-Alikes

It is difficult to distinguish this plant from other look-alikes, please report suspected sightings and do not remove plants until positive identification confirmed.



	<b>Portuguese broom</b> <i>Cytisus striatus</i>	<b>Scotch broom</b> <i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	<b>Spanish broom</b> <i>Spartium junceum</i>	<b>White-flowered broom</b> <i>Cytisus multiflorus</i>	<b>French broom</b> <i>Genista monspessulana</i>
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.0-3.0 m (≤6 m) tall, up to 6.0 m wide, silvery-green</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.8 m (≤3.7 m) tall; bright, dark green</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.8-3.0 m tall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.8-1.5 m tall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.0 (&lt;5.0 m) tall</li> </ul>
<b>Stem</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>8-10 ridged cross-section, nearly round</b></li> <li>• Young stems silky-hairy, mature stems smoother</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>5-ridged cross-section, star-shaped</b></li> <li>• <b>Stiff stems</b>; somewhat hairy when young, becoming smooth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finely ribbed cross-section appears round</li> <li>• <b>Smooth</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>5-ridged cross-section</b></li> <li>• <b>Flexible stems</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>8-10 ridged cross-section, nearly round</b></li> <li>• All but main stem covered in dense, short, silky hairs</li> </ul>
<b>Leaves</b>  Simple  Compound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deciduous</li> <li>• Simple or compound; 1-3 leaflets (5-15 mm long), sometimes single on new twigs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deciduous</li> <li>• Simple or compound; 3 leaflets (5-20 mm long), sometimes single on new twigs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deciduous</li> <li>• <b>Simple, very sparse to lacking (1-2 cm long); often leafless, especially late in the season</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deciduous</li> <li>• Mainly on lower branches; compound, 3 leaflets (&lt;10 mm long) on lower branches, single on upper branches; <b>coated in soft, silvery hairs</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Evergreen</b></li> <li>• Compound, 3 leaflets (5-20 mm long), usually dense; oblong; <b>appear waxy above and slightly hairy below</b></li> </ul>
<b>Flower</b>  Calyx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pale yellow (5-10 mm long), single or paired in leaf axils</b></li> <li>• <b>Calyx 2-lipped, top lip minutely toothed with short hairs</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bright yellow (15-25 mm long), can be multi-coloured with red or purple spots; single or paired in leaf axils</b></li> <li>• <b>Calyx 2-lipped, top lip minutely toothed, lower 3-toothed, smooth</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yellow (<b>2-3 cm long</b>), several in open racemes along branch tips. Strong fragrance.</li> <li>• <b>Calyx 1-lipped, parted to base on top, smooth</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>White, often with dark pink streak at base (8-12 mm long)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yellow (<b>1.5-8 mm long</b>) clusters of 4-10 along short, upright branches</li> <li>• <b>Calyx 2-lipped, top lip 2-toothed to near middle, longer lower lip; covered with short hairs</b></li> </ul>
<b>Seeds Pods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Slightly inflated; covered in dense, long, flattened, white hairs (like a cat's paw) (1.3-5 cm long), 5-9 seeds per pod.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flattened, hairy on margins only (2-5 cm long), 3-12 seeds per pod.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slightly flattened, <b>smooth with few to no long hairs (4-11 cm long)</b>, 10-18 seeds per pod.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covered in short hairs (1.5-3 cm long), 3-7 seeds per pod.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slightly flattened, <b>covered with long, silky hairs (1.5-2.5 cm long)</b>, 3-9 seeds per pod.</li> </ul>