

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Portuguese broom (*Cytisus striatus*)

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

DESCRIPTION

- Native to Mediterranean Africa and southwest Europe .
- Large, erect, perennial shrub; grows up to 3 meters tall and 6 metres wide, tap root.
- Stems silvery green with distinct vertical striations; and 8-10 ridged, nearly round cross-section.
- Deciduous leaves are arranged sparsely on the stem in one to three leaflets (5-15 mm long), more abundant on the ends of actively growing stems.
- Flowers are pale yellow and pea-like (5-10 mm long), growing from the leaf axils in singles or pairs. The calyx is covered with short hairs.
- Seed pods are covered in long, dense, white hairs resembling a cat's paw (1.3-5 cm long). Each pod contains 3-7 seeds, olive to brown in colour with purple patches.

Portuguese broom



B.C. Government

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

PRIMARY THREAT: Outcompetes beneficial plants and increases wildfire fuel hazards

1-2 Flowers in Leaf Axils

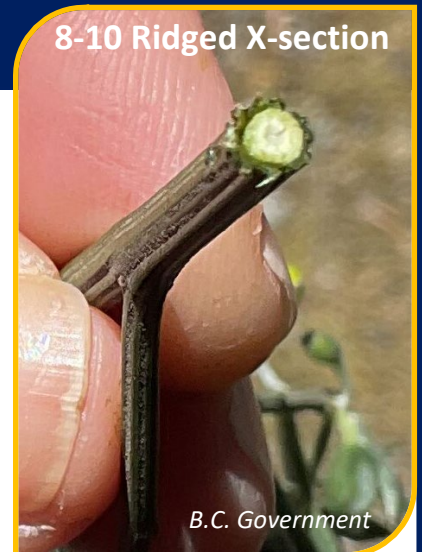


BC Government

BIOLOGY & SPREAD

- Reproduces via seed at 2-3 years, single plants can produce up to 15,000 seeds
- Flowers in spring, later than Scotch broom
- Local dispersal via exploding seed pods, 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 for 25 or possibly up to 80 years
- Ornamental, non-invasive hybrids are known.

8-10 Ridged X-section



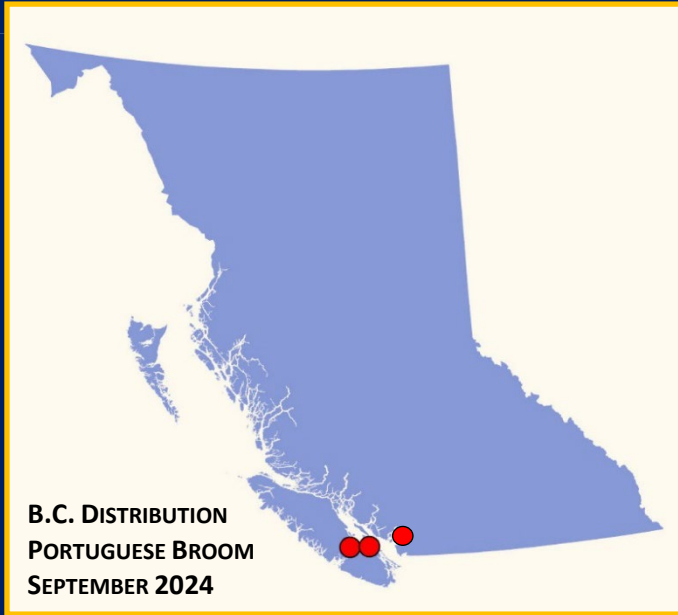
B.C. Government

For more information:

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

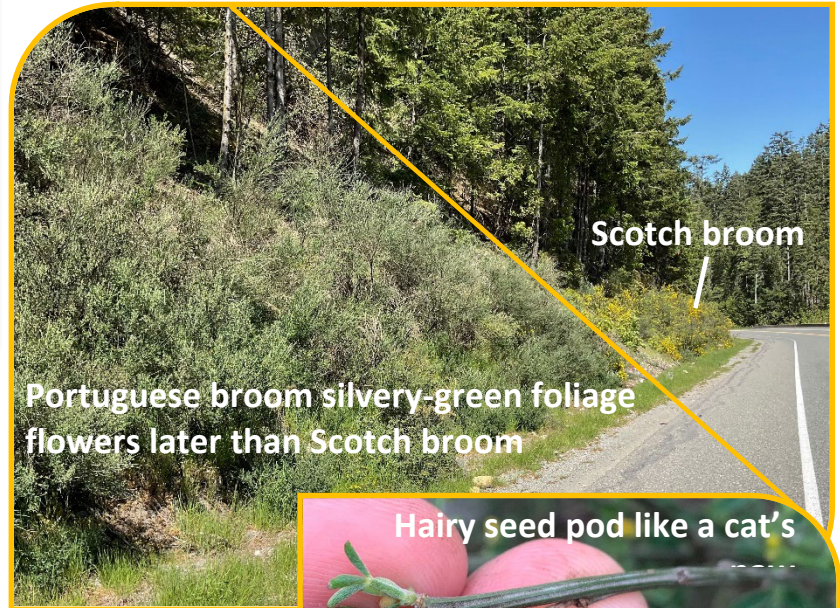


Portuguese broom (*Cytisus striatus*)



DISTRIBUTION & Status

- Management goal is provincial eradication.
- Limited occurrences in the regions of Central Vancouver Island and Metro Vancouver.



REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

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.
- Will thrive province-wide up to 2,100 m elev., with a preference for coastal climates.

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.



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