

Spartium junceum

COMMON NAMES

Spanish broom

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Deciduous shrub up to 3 m high. Mature branches and stems are stout, rounded, green to dark green, glabrous and with few leaves. Leaves simple entire and oblong, up to 25 mm on mature branches, up to 45 mm on shaded shoots or seedlings. Inflorescence with numerous golden flowers, up to 28 mm long. Seed pod 50-90 mm long, flattened, becoming glabrous, seeds smooth and dark brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

The unusually shaped Calyx (outer green floral parts) with 5 reduced teeth on one side distinguishes Spanish broom from all other wild NZ legumes (Webb et al 1988).

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

GENUS

Spartium

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Spartium junceum L.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December, January, February, March, April, May

YEAR NATURALISED

1940

ORIGIN

Mediterranean

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Reproduces by seed (many are produced).



Whanganui. Feb 2011. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

NVS CODE

SPAJUN

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/spartium-junceum/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026