

# English Broom

Series: Environmental Weed Factsheet  
Ranked 17 — Worst weed in Yarra Ranges



**Common Name:** English Broom

**Botanical Name:** *Cytisus scoparius*

**Origin:** Europe

**Size:** 1m–3m H, 1m–2.5m W

**Flowers:** October–January

**Fruit:** December to March

**Status:** Declared noxious weed

**Best removal time:** Before seeds form

**How to dispose of weeds:**

**Recovery & Transfer centres:**

- Healesville
- Wesburn
- Coldstream
- Lysterfield

*Note: For a free tip voucher to dispose weeds, contact the Environment Dept. on 1300 368 333. Limited availability.*

OR

**Fortnightly Garden Organics Bin**

**Service.** *Note: This service is only available to properties within eligible service areas. For more information, contact the Waste Management services on 1300 368 333.*

OR

**Bundled green waste service.** *Note: Check your Residential Recycling & Waste guide for details of the next service in your area.*

## What it does...

This plant invades all areas except heavily shaded or swampy places. It is a vigorous plant that overtakes large areas, preventing indigenous vegetation from growing. Seeds remain viable in the soil for a long time.

## What it looks like...

English broom is an upright evergreen shrub. It has many woody prominently ridged stems that are usually green to brownish-green in colour. The leaves are small, green, are short stalked and have fine hairs. Plants become leafless. It has yellow or yellow and red pea type flowers which bloom in spring.

## How it spreads...

English Broom spreads by:

- birds.
- animals.
- ants.
- machinery.
- water.
- garden waste.
- contaminated soil.
- hybrid plants are available at nurseries, markets and fetes. Buyer beware!

## How to remove it...



**HAND:** Small plants can easily be hand pulled when the soil is soft. It is best to try and remove the young plants before they begin to flower.



**CUT & PAINT:** This method may be more practical for larger plants. Cut close to the ground. Be sure to paint the cut as quickly as possible to ensure the plant absorbs the poison.



**SPRAY:** Where there is quite a large infestation and hand pulling or the cut and paint method would not be appropriate. English broom can be sprayed with a glyphosate-based product. Ensure not to overspray onto native vegetation.

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## Indigenous alternatives to plant...

Many shrub alternatives exist that are indigenous to the Yarra Ranges region and would make great substitutes for English Broom.

Some alternatives include:



Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea or *Daviesia leptophylla*



Golden Tip or *Goodia lotifolia*



Spreading Wattle or *Acacia genistifolia*



Photos: Shire staff; Marilyn Gray, Healesville Sanctuary,  
Peter Kinchington, Marty White, Coral Jeffs

## Useful websites

The following is a list of useful information resources:

- For a list of indigenous plant nurseries, see [Indigenous Plant Nurseries list](#).
- For a list of other weeds in Yarra Ranges, see [Environmental Weeds list](#).
- For a list of chemical/herbicide contractors, see [Contractor and supplier list](#).
- For descriptions of the local plants and the weeds of the Shire of Yarra Ranges see [www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/plants](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/plants)



## WARNING IF USING CHEMICALS

If you are weeding, all chemical use must be done as per manufacturers' guidelines. Ensure that you wear protective clothing/eye wear at all times. Take care and protect yourself, your family, pets and the natural environment (waterways, indigenous plants, wildlife) from coming into contact with chemicals.

When purchasing your herbicide always ask for a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). Product suppliers are required to make these sheets available at the point of sale. If a sheet is not available, notify the product manufacturer and the state authority. For further information go to [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au) or call the Poisons Information Service on 13 11 26.

For information on State-listed noxious weeds contact the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) on 136 186. Remember, as a landowner you are required by State law to control and remove noxious weeds on your land.

Produced by the Environment Department of Yarra Ranges Council.  
Working with communities to wipe out weeds for a better future.

