



# 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.)