



Government
of South Australia

Declared Plant Policy

This policy relates to natural resources management under section 9(1)(d) of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (the Act), enabling co-ordinated implementation and promotion of sound management programs and practices for the use, development or protection of natural resources of the State. Specifically, this policy provides guidance on the use and management of natural resources relating to the prevention or control of impacts caused by pest species of plants that may have an adverse effect on the environment, primary production or the community, as per object s7(1)(f) of the Act.

Cape broom (*Genista monspessulana*)

Cape broom is a shrub that forms dense thickets, excluding native vegetation and providing cover for rabbits. It has become significant weed in the Mount Lofty Ranges region and some coastal localities.

Management Plan for Cape broom

Outcomes

- Prevent further spread of broom into bush and pasture
- Maintain the integrity of native vegetation.

Objectives

- High priority infestations of Cape broom in the control areas controlled.
- Larger infestations in these areas contained.
- No further spread of Cape broom to currently uninfested areas.

Best Practice Implementation

- Regional Landscape boards and Green Adelaide to ensure high priority infestations on private or public land are controlled.
- Regional Landscape boards and Green Adelaide to control priority infestations on road reserves.
- Infestations too large for immediate removal in these areas to be the subject of plans for containment and progressive reduction by direct treatment and by encouraging regeneration of native vegetation as appropriate.

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Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

Region	Actions
Alinytjara Wilurara	Limited action
Eyre Peninsula	Protect sites
Green Adelaide	Manage weed
Hills and Fleurieu	Manage weed
Kangaroo Island	Contain spread
Limestone Coast	Protect sites
Murraylands and Riverland	Contain spread
Northern and Yorke	Protect sites
South Australian Arid Lands	Limited action

Declaration

To implement this policy, Cape broom is declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia. Its movement on a public road, by itself or as a contaminant, or sale by itself or as a contaminant, are prohibited. Green Adelaide and regional landscape boards in all regions except Alinytjara Wilurara and SA Arid Lands may require land owners to control Cape broom plants growing on their land. These authorities are required to control plants on road reserves in their regions, and may recover costs from the adjoining land owners.

Cape broom is declared in category 2 under the Act, for the purpose of setting maximum penalties and for other purposes. Any permit to allow its road transport or sale can only be issued by the Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) or their delegate pursuant to section 197.

Under the *Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020*, Regulation 27 specifies the conditions under which a person is exempt from the operation of section 186 and may transport wool, grain or other produce or goods carrying Cape broom on public roads. Regulation 28 specifies conditions under which a person is exempt from the operation of section 188(2) and may sell wool, grain or other produce or goods carrying Cape broom. Note that certain produce or goods may be excluded from these general movement and sale exemptions by Gazettal Notice of the Chief Executive, DEW.

The following sections of the Act apply to Cape broom throughout each of the regions noted below:

Sections of Act	Region								
	AW	EP	GA	HF	KI	LC	MR	NY	SAAL
186(1) Prohibiting entry to area									
186(2) Prohibiting movement on public roads	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
188(1) Prohibiting sale of the plant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
188(2) Prohibiting sale of contaminated goods	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
190 Requiring notification of presence									
192(1) Land owners to destroy the plant on their properties									
192(2) Land owners to control the plant on their properties		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
194 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Review

This policy is to be reviewed by 2025 or in the event of a change in one or more regional management plans for Cape broom.

Weed Risk

Invasiveness

Cape broom is a leguminous shrub that grows rapidly after the first year and produces large quantities of hard seed.

Seed is scattered locally when the pods burst. Longer distance dispersal is due mainly to road graders and earthmoving equipment, or occasional contamination of fodder and farm machinery. Infestations are only found in regions where Cape broom has been used as an ornamental.

Germination occurs in autumn and spring after the seed coat has been damaged by fire or abrasion. Major disturbance, such as fire or partial clearing, is usually needed before Cape broom can establish in native vegetation, and most infestations begin on disturbed areas such as timber plantations, quarries and road construction sites.

Impacts

Cape broom forms dense thickets that exclude native shrubs, at least in the short term, and provide cover for rabbits and foxes. Being a leguminous shrub, it fixes nitrogen and consequently increases soil fertility providing a favourable habitat for other weeds to invade. Although stock will eat seedlings and thereby prevent encroachment into managed pasture, old broom infestations on neglected land can exclude stock and necessitate more expensive control measures to restore the land to production.

Cape broom is a fire hazard in wooded areas where it can form an inflammable understorey at the edge of forests where fires are most likely to start. The infestation of abandoned grazing paddocks on the periurban fringe by Cape broom thickets is also a fire hazard that increases the risk of bushfires moving into residential suburbs.

Potential distribution

In South Australia, Cape broom infestations occur in areas receiving 400 mm to 950 mm annual rainfall. It is particularly common on roadsides and in woodland, and is of most concern in native woodlands of south-eastern Australia. It grows on a wide range of soils but does best on sandy soils.

It could be expected to grow in near-coastal and hill vegetation from southern Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, Fleurieu Peninsula and Mount Lofty Ranges to the lower Limestone Coast.

Feasibility of Containment

Control costs

Due to Cape broom's persistence, no single method gives complete control of broom thickets and the seed bank. A combination of methods is required for long-term control.

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Sheep, goats and cattle eat Cape broom, particularly younger seedlings, and may suppress the development of infestations. Larger plants may need to be cut or slashed to allow stock better grazing access.

Several herbicides are registered in South Australia for use as a foliar application or as part of basal bark and cut stump application. Cutting seedlings at 5 to 10 cm high provides effective control of regenerating plants. Thickets can be slashed with a brush cutter and the regrowth sprayed with herbicide.

Persistence

Cape broom produces up to 2000 seeds per plant annually. These are long lived in the soil with only a small proportion germinating at any time, and soil seed banks up to 50,000 seeds per square are formed.

Current distribution

The current distribution of Cape broom in South Australia is much less than its potential distribution. The major infestations occur on the Fleurieu Peninsula and in the Adelaide Hills, but it extends to Kangaroo Island, the lower South East, the Mount Lofty Ranges as far north as Clare, and Melrose.

State Level Risk Assessment

Assessment using the Biosecurity SA Weed Risk Management System gave the following comparative weed risk and feasibility of containment scores by land use:

Land use	Weed Risk	Feasibility of control	Response at State Level
Native vegetation	high 185	medium 48	protect sites
Forestry	low 34	medium 45	limited action

Considerations

Cape broom was first proclaimed for a few Pest Plant Board areas in the Adelaide Hills in 1980. At that time, it was seen as a 'community pest plant' as its impacts are mainly on native vegetation.

Risk assessment indicates a management action at State level of protecting sites in native vegetation. Regional management plans vary according to regional habitats and presence of the weed. In the Green Adelaide, and Hills and Fleurieu regions where the largest and longest-established infestations occur the weed is managed. Eyre Peninsula, Limestone Coast and Northern and Yorke regions protect sites. Murraylands and Riverland and Kangaroo Island, where Cape broom is relatively localised, aim to contain spread.

Cape broom has been recognised as a Weed of National Significance and is the subject of a national control strategy.

Synonymy

Genista monspessulana (L.) L.A.S.Johnson, Contr. N.S.W. Natl. Herb. 3: 98. (1962).

Basionym: *Cytisus monspessulanus* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 740. (1753).

Nomenclatural synonym:

Teline monspessulana (L.)K.Koch, Dendrologie 1:30. (1869).

Taxonomic synonyms:

Genista candicans L., Cent. Pl. 1: 22. (1755).

Cytisus candicans (L.)Lam., Fl. Franç. (Lamarck) 2: 623. (1779).

Cytisus kunzeanus Willk., in Willk. & Lange, Prod. Fl. Hisp. 3: 452 (1880).

Other common names include Montpellier broom, soft broom and French broom. It is sometimes called canary broom, but should not be confused with the real Canary Island broom, *Genista canariensis*, which is not declared.

References

Office of Environment and Heritage (2014) Broom Management Manual: Current management and control options for Scotch (*Cytisus scoparius*), Montpellier (*Genista monspessulana*) and flax-leaf (*G. linifolia*) brooms in Australia.

Hon David Speirs MP

Minister for Environment and Water

Date: 28 March 2021