



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.

English broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

English broom is a shrub that forms dense thickets, excluding native vegetation and providing cover for rabbits. It has become a major woody weed in the Mount Lofty Ranges and Fleurieu Peninsula regions.

Management Plan for English Broom

Outcomes

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

Objectives

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

Best Practice Implementation

- Regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide to control infestations on road reserves.
- Regional landscape boards, Green Adelaide and the Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water to enforce the prohibition on sale of plants of these broom species.
- Regional landscape boards in the active control area and Green Adelaide to ensure high priority infestations on private or public land are controlled.
- Infestations too large for immediate control in these areas to be the subject of plans for containment and progressive reduction by direct treatment or by encouraging regeneration of native vegetation as appropriate.

Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

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

Declaration

To implement this policy, English broom is declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia. Its movement or transport on a public road, by itself or as a contaminant, or sale by itself or as a contaminant are prohibited. Green Adelaide, and landscape boards in all regions except Alinytjara Wilurara and SA Arid Lands may require land owners to control English 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.

On Kangaroo Island, notification of the presence of plants is necessary to ensure any incursion is promptly detected.

English broom is declared in category 3 under the Act, for the purpose of setting maximum penalties and for other purposes. Any permit to allow its sale or road transport can only be issued by the regional landscape board or Green Adelaide 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 English 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 English 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 English 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					X				
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 English broom.

Weed Risk

Invasiveness

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

Seed is scattered for a few metres when the pods burst. Longer distance dispersal is due mainly to road graders and earthmoving equipment, with some movement by animals or in mud on vehicles. Infestations are only found in regions where English 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 English broom can establish in native vegetation.

Impacts

English broom can form dense thickets that exclude native shrubs such as *Hakea* and *Acacia*, at least in the short term, and provide cover for rabbits. Being a legume, English broom fixes nitrogen from the air, increasing soil fertility and providing a more suitable habitat for other weeds to invade.

It has the ability to become the dominant shrub species, particularly after fires, due to strong seedling recruitment. Brooms also out-compete poor or degraded pasture and reduce agricultural production. Although stock will browse 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.

English broom is a fire hazard in forest areas where it can form an inflammable understorey at the edge of forests where fires are most likely to start.

Potential distribution

English broom prefers moderate to high rainfall areas of humid temperate regions, often on steep slopes at altitudes of 300-800 metres above sea level. Infestations in South Australia occur in areas with over 700 mm annual rainfall. It grows on a wide range of soils including sandy soils, and is particularly common on roadsides and in woodland.

It may be expected to grow in hill vegetation from southern Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, Fleurieu Peninsula and Mount Lofty Ranges to the lower Limestone Coast; it has a narrower potential range than Cape broom in this State.

Feasibility of Containment

Control costs

Due to English broom's persistence, no one method alone will give total control of existing broom plants and subsequent seedlings. A combination of methods is required for long-term control.

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

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 when they are 5 to 10 cm high can provide effective control of regenerating plants. Thickets can be slashed with a brush cutter and any regrowth sprayed with herbicide.

Persistence

Matures stands of English broom produce up to 2000 seeds per plant annually. These are long lived in the soil, more than 80 per cent remaining dormant and viable after 45 months, and can germinate in autumn and spring for a number of years.

Current distribution

The current distribution of English broom in South Australia is less than its potential distribution, with infestations limited to the Mount Lofty Ranges and both sides of the Fleurieu Peninsula.

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	medium 42	high 22	Protect sites
Forestry	low 28	medium 40	Limited action

Considerations

English 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 were 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. The Eyre Peninsula, Limestone Coast, Murraylands and Riverland, South East and Northern and Yorke regions protect sites. Kangaroo Island, where English broom is still absent, treats it as an alert weed to be contained.

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

Synonymy

Cytisus scoparius (L.)Link, Enum. Hort. Bot. Berol. Alt. 2: 241 (1822)

Basionym: *Spartium scoparium* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 709 (1753)

Nomenclatural synonyms:

Sarothamnus scoparius (L.)Wimm., Fl. Schles. [Wimmer] (1832)

Taxonomic synonyms:

Cytisus scoparius 'Andreanus'

Sarothamnus bourgaei Boiss., Diagn. Pl. Orient. ser. 2, 2: 6 (1856)

Sarothamnus oxyphyllus Boiss., Diagn. Pl. Orient. ser. 2, 2: 7 (1856)

Sarothamnus vulgaris Wimm., Fl. Schles. [Wimmer] 278 (1832)

Other common names include common broom and Scotch broom.

Many cultivars, e.g. 'Dragonfly', 'Lord Lambourne', 'Fulgens', Mrs E. Maude', 'Cornish Cream', 'Sulphureus' and 'Crimson King' are believed to be selections or hybrids of this species.

References

Fogarty, G. & Facelli, J.M. (1999) Growth and competition of *Cytisus scoparius*, an invasive shrub, and Australian native shrubs. *Plant Ecology* 144: 27-35.

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.

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Minister for Environment and Water

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