

Genista monspessulana
French Broom



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Non-Native

- Round, lightly ridged stems covered with silvery silky hairs.
- Dense leaves arranged in groups of three, hairy underneath.
- Small (<1/2") yellow flowers bloom at the end of short side branchlets.
- Dark brown or black seed pod densely covered in small hairs.



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Cytisus scoparius
Scotch Broom



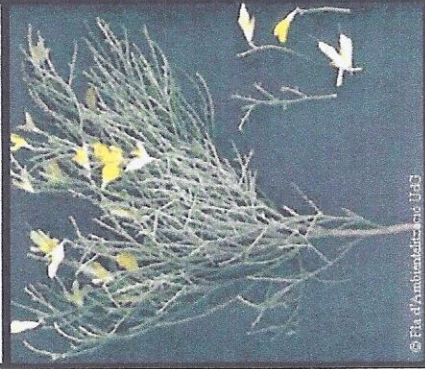
Non-Native

- Dark green, ridged stems.
- Small, sparse leaves occur in groups of three, or singly on younger branches.
- One or two larger (>1/2") flowers clustered in leaf axils, petals golden and sometimes partially to wholly dark red.
- Brown/black seed pod flattened and has hairs only along seam.



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Spartium junceum
Spanish Broom



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Non-Native

- Rush-like, bluish-green, round, smooth stems.
- Very small leaves almost absent, occur singly.
- Several large, loose light yellow flowers bloom in open racemes at stem tips.
- Elongated brown seed pods densely covered with long hairs.



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Lotus scoparius var scoparius
California Broom or Deerweed



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Native

- Grows only in chaparral.
- Unlike exotic brooms, does not form dense stands.
- Upright or low-growing, finer-looking than exotic brooms.
- Round smooth stems.
- Narrow, sparse leaves grow in groups of three.
- Small (<1/2") yellow, or sometimes white or orange flowers.
- Blooms in whorls 2-7 together in leaf axils, occasionally calyx arches upwards.
- Skinny hairless seed pod, or hairs only along seam.



Brooms are shrubs in the pea family (Fabaceae) and have yellow pea-like flowers and seeds in pods. They are able to fix atmospheric nitrogen and change the soil chemistry. Except for our native California broom, they come from the Mediterranean. The exotic brooms outcompete native plants, are toxic to animals, and increase wildfire hazard. French, Scotch and Spanish broom are most common in the Mt. Tamalpais watershed.

-Produced by the Marin Municipal Water District