



The California Invasive Plant Council Student Chapter recommends that you

# DON'T PLANT

## SPANISH BROOM



Photos: Dr. Amadej Trnkoczyn

**Scientific Name:** *Spartium junceum*

**Other Common Names:**

**Description:**

Ornamental evergreen shrub with thick, green stems and yellow flowers. This shrub is perennial and can grow to be 6-10 feet tall. Habit is erect. Flowers occur in bunches at the ends of stems that can be up to 18 inches long. It flowers between July and the first frost.

**Biology, Habitat, and Spread:**

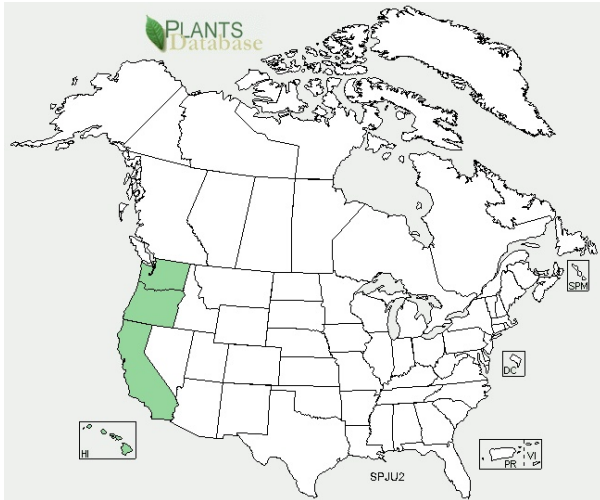
Spanish broom is a member of the legume family (Fabaceae) and fixes nitrogen in the soil. The fruits are hairy seed pods and the plant spreads via seed. It is a relatively drought tolerant plant and is often found in disturbed areas, vacant lots, along roadsides, and in parks.

**Impact:**

Creates dense thickets that crowd out and disturb native plants and animals. As a nitrogen fixer, it alters soil chemistry and nutrient availability around the plant. The dense, woody stems increase fire intensity. Can use up available water, to the detriment of neighboring plants, and grow to exclude all other native shrubs in a localized area.

**Native Range:** Mediterranean Europe and the Canary Islands

**Invaded Range:**



**Control Methods:**

Little is known about management of Spanish broom. Sawing the stems and applying herbicide to the cut stems of adults will likely be effective. Physical and mechanical removal of young plants may be possible. However, in both cases, rapid re-establishment of seeds and seedlings is likely following removal of adult plants. Most likely, effective control will require several years.

**Alternatives:**



**Bush Marigold**  
*Tagetes lemmonii*

Upright, perennial shrub with yellow flowers.

Photo: C. Martus



**Bush Poppy or Island Bush Poppy**  
*Dendromecon rigida / D. harfordii*

Upright shrub with large yellow flowers and slender stems, can grow up to 10ft. tall.

Photo: C. Martus



**Lemonade Berry**  
*Rhus integrifolia*

Evergreen shrub up to 8ft. tall, pinkish flowers, edible berries can be used in lemonade.

Photo: C. Martus

**References:**

National Park Service: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

Cal-IPC: [www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org)

US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service: <http://plants.usda.gov>

Noxious Weed Control Board: [http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weed\\_info/Written\\_findings/Spartium\\_junceum.html](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weed_info/Written_findings/Spartium_junceum.html)