

## *Genista monspessulana*

### **Common name:**

Cape broom, Montpellier broom,  
Canary broom,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

High at all stages.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Not known to be toxic.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

May affect all grazing stock.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Cytisine,

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and symptoms;*

- . Nausea, convulsions,
- . Respiratory failure,
- . Seeds may be toxic to humans,

#### *Health and Production Problems;*

- . May cause impaction if grazed too heavily.
- . May cause congenital deformities in livestock.

#### *Treatment;*

Be aware of potential stock problems.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Use goats at all stages.
- . Prevent seeding.
- . Fire activates germination, and some adult plants will re-sprout after fire has gone through.
- . Graze heavily after fire.
- . Slash, or use herbicides for several years.

### **Comments:**

- . An upright, evergreen shrub, about two metres tall, reproducing by seed.
- . Leaves consist of three leaflets on a short stalk.

- . Flowers are bright yellow, pea-like, and occur singly or in clusters in the leaf axils, from late winter to early spring.
- . Forms dense thickets, and excludes other vegetation, also creates fire hazards.
- . Harbor for rabbits and foxes.
- . May be considered toxic to stock if grazed extensively, but no cases of poisoning have been reported in Australia.
- . Produces lots of seed, and spreads rapidly.
- . Occurs in Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, and NSW, along roadsides, and in pastures.
- . Formerly used as a hedge, or windbreak, but it can get out of control.



Picture; *Genista monspessulana* CRC WW 4

### **Further Reading:**

- . AGDEX 647. NSW Dept Ag. Herbicide Control.
- . Lamp and Collett. Field Guide to Weeds in Australia. 1997
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds in Australia. 2001
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997