

Report this pest
 

# Spiny broom

## Why is it a pest?

Spiny broom is an invasive perennial shrub that can form dense areas, excluding and outcompeting native vegetation.

It can quickly take over farmland, reducing grazing and harming native ecosystems. Its seeds can survive in the soil for many years, so once it establishes, it can be hard to control. It also fixes nitrogen in the soil, which helps it grow in poor soils.

There are three known sites for spiny broom — these are Chain Hills and Brighton, both in Dunedin, and Waihola.

## What does it look like?

- **Size:** Up to three metres in height.
- **Leaves:** Dark or grey-green, about 12 millimetres long, with three leaflets that are hairy underneath and may occur in clusters. These plants also have ridged stems with sharp spines.
- **Flowers/seeds:** Bright yellow flowers and flattened, hairless seedpods.
- **Root system:** The plant has a tap root underground (a thick central root that grows straight down).
- **Similar species:** Spiny broom can be differentiated from broom by its sharp spines.
- **Habitat:** Includes rocky soils, grasslands, pastures, roadsides, forests, shrublands and cleared areas.



### Common name:

Spiny broom

### Scientific name:

*Calicotome spinosa*

### Management programme:

Eradication

The eradication programme aims to get rid of all of these pests in Otago.



**Report  
this pest!**

If you have seen or suspect the presence of this pest, you **must report** the sighting to us at [orc.govt.nz/reportpests](https://orc.govt.nz/reportpests)

## When can I spot it best?

Flowering can occur between spring and summer (September–February). Barbs can be seen on the plant all year round.

## What are the rules?

To reduce the infestation of spiny broom in Otago and its negative environmental and economic effects, this plant pest is in the eradication programme of the Otago Regional Pest Management Plan (2019–2029).

## How will we achieve that?

ORC is responsible for controlling any spiny broom. We are aware of three areas of interest in Otago and are undertaking regular surveillance and working to remove this pest entirely from Otago.

## What should I do?

Do not attempt to undertake control of spiny broom yourself. Report any sightings to Otago Regional Council.




**Report this pest**



## Help us find spiny broom

You must notify Otago Regional Council if you suspect the presence of this pest.

**If you think you've seen it:**



**Note the location**



**Take a photo**  
(if possible)



**Report this pest**  
at [orc.govt.nz/reportpests](https://orc.govt.nz/reportpests)

For more information, visit [orc.govt.nz/spinybroom](https://orc.govt.nz/spinybroom)

