



Carmel Views Genista Eradication Campaign

The yellow-flowering plant now blooming along our roadsides is a serious fire hazard. This highly invasive weed is called Genista (scientific name *Genista monspessulana*) – or “French Broom.”

Understand the Genista Threat

Allowing Genista to grow in your yard intensifies wildfire risks to your home and property and to our community. Genista burns easily and intensely, spreading wildfires and providing ladder fuels that enable fire to reach tree canopies. Because Genista produces prolific seed and grows rapidly, it rapidly invades new areas and establishes dense stands. Genista has been declared a weed threat and a fire hazard by Monterey County, The Santa Lucia Conservancy, and numerous California Counties and municipalities (among many others).

Identify Genista (French Broom)

Genista is a green shrub with bright yellow flowers. Individual plants range from a few inches to more than 8-feet high and often occur in clumps. Its leaves are less than an inch long and come in clusters of three. The flowers look like pea blossoms.



Genista flower above. Branch at right. Note leaf clusters of three.



Eliminate Genista from Your Yard

While the ground is still damp from recent rains, it is easy to simply pull-out Genista by the roots and put it into your green waste bin. Pulling Genista will become much more difficult as things dry up and the ground hardens. Simply cutting back Genista does not work, because the plants will resprout lushly.

Hand pulling works well for small to medium sized plants. But for bigger or deeply rooted plants, you can borrow a special tool called a “PullerBear.” Some people also use chemical herbicides to control extensive or dense Genista infestations.

Whatever method you use, make sure to remove all Genista plants that you see – large and small. And, because Genista seed can stay dormant in the ground for years, stay vigilant! Routinely monitor your yard for new Genista seedlings and remove them promptly before they become a bigger problem.

To borrow a PullerBear from CVCA contact CVCABoard@gmail.com. Go to <https://carmelviews.net> for more information and links to further resources or contact CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.com.