

# White weeping broom (*Retama raetam*)

## Fact sheet

### What do they look like?

White weeping broom is a Mediterranean shrub that grows to 3m high and may reach 6m across. Plants are grey-green with slender, drooping branches. The very small leaves, 0.5cm long by 0.1cm wide, are quickly dropped and plants remain leafless for most of the year. White pea-like flowers, 0.8-1cm long appear close to the stems in clusters. The hairless grape-shaped seed pod (1-1.5cm diameter) contains one or two kidney-shaped seeds, 0.6mm long.



### Why should white weeping broom be controlled?

White weeping broom is on the Alert List for Environmental Weeds, a list of 28 non-native plants that threaten biodiversity and cause other environmental damage. These weeds

have the potential to seriously degrade Australia's ecosystems.

White weeping broom was brought to Australia as an ornamental shrub. Like many of the broom plants, it invades nutrient-poor to fertile, well-drained soils where it can fix nitrogen and form a shrub layer that can outcompete and shade out native plants. It may infest grazing land and prevent access to stock. White weeping broom is drought tolerant and reproduces from seed. Each plant can produce thousands of seeds that drop when pods split open and remain viable in the soil for several years. Seeds can also be spread by water.



### What are my responsibilities?

White weeping broom is a declared weed under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. This means it is illegal to transport or sell this plant and all property owners have a

responsibility to control white weeping broom on their property. Residents who rent their properties also have obligations to control any weeds present. This also includes anyone who is leasing property unless other arrangements have been made.



## What are the best ways to control white weeping broom?

Because white weeping broom has a more continuous growth than some of the other broom species, it can be treated throughout the year whenever it is actively growing.

It should be treated before it sets seed.

Physical removal is an option for isolated plants, especially if they have not seeded, although seedlings are hard to hand pull. Hand-pulled seedlings can be placed in large plastic bags and removed to tip facilities. Monitor the areas in summer and remove any young plants that may have germinated.

### Chemical control

**Spot spray:** Glyphosate (450g/L) at an application rate of 1L/100L or glyphosate (360g/L) + metsulfuron methyl (600g/kg) at an application rate of 1L+3g/100L.

**Cut and swab:** Cut the stem as close to the ground as possible and spray glyphosate on freshly cut stump at an application rate of 1L/1L or use Vigilant II (gel applied immediately as a 3-5 mm thick layer).

**Basal bark spray:** Saturate bark on trunk and any branches from ground level up to 30 cm using 1L of triclopyr (600g/L) in 30L of pine oil.

## Do you have white weeping broom?

If you think you have white weeping broom on your property, Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board staff can provide advice on control and management.

### More information

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