

Gorse *(Ulex europaeus)*

Plant identification guide



Tackling gorse takes effort, but doing nothing means it just gets worse

Use this guide to help identify gorse, a declared noxious weed, from a selection of common Victorian native plants that have similar features.



Seeds

- Seed pods are fine, densely haired oblong pods 10-20mm long by 6mm deep.
- Pods are green when young, turning dark brown when mature.
- Each pod contains two to six seeds measuring 3-4mm across with a very hard green or brown seed coat and yellow appendage.



Leaves

- Dark green, stalkless, narrow and stiff, resembling spines. Occurring in clusters along the branch.
- 6-30mm long by 1.5mm wide with a sharp spine at the tip. Spines and leaves have a waxy coating.



Seedlings

- Seedlings have soft hairy grey-green 'trifoliolate' (three-leaflet) leaves.
- These leaves are lost as the plant matures and spines develop from three months of age.



Flowers

- Bright yellow pea-like flower 15-25mm long with a distinct coconut-like fragrance.



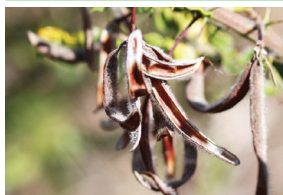
Once gorse is established, it is very difficult to eradicate. If left undisturbed, can grow up to 4m high and 3m diameter.

▶ Scan QR code opposite to download the **VGT Gorse Best Practice Guide** for further information



Common Victorian native plants that could be mistaken for gorse

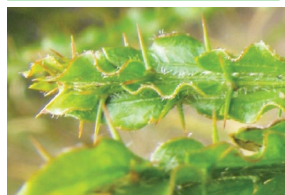
Seeds



Hedge Wattle

Flowers are abundant in large yellow balls from August to November.

Leaves



Seedlings



Flowers



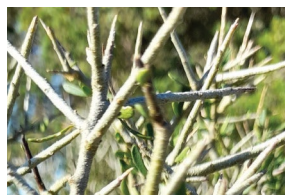
Prickly Moses

Light yellow flower spikes from June to December.



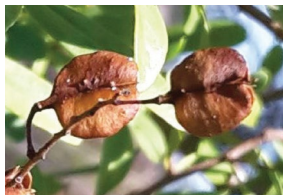
Tree Violet

Masses of tiny cream bell flowers from September to November followed by pale green to purple berries.



Sweet Bursaria

Masses of fragrant creamy white bunches of flowers from December to March.



Explore the **Virtual Extension Officer**, an interactive tool designed to help you manage gorse. www.virtualextensionofficer.com.au

Victorian Gorse Taskforce
www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au

