

Spanish Broom	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Ġenista Safra
Common English name	Scientific name	Maltese name

Where is this tree found in the world – (Species Distribution)

The Spanish broom is native to the southern Mediterranean region, including the Maltese Islands.

What is the preferred habitat for this tree?

It grows in grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, coastal habitats and cliffs, and on disturbed sites.

Is it green all year (evergreen), or does it change according to the season (deciduous)?

It is evergreen.

How tall can it grow? (height)

It may grow to a max of 5m.

What are the leaves and flowers like?

Leaves are small in size, relatively sparse in number, linear to lanceolate and bright green. The flowers are large, bright yellow pea-like flowers and bloom from spring to autumn. They have a fragrance similar to oranges and are insect-pollinated.

What are the fruits like?

Its fruit (chaste berry or monk's pepper) is about the size of a peppercorn.

What do humans use this tree for?

It is a fast-growing shrub, widely introduced as an ornamental plant and also for erosion control. It can fix Nitrogen and therefore, capable of improving soil fertility.



Does this tree have legal protection?

It is strictly protected by law: schedule I of LN200/2011 and schedule III + VI of LN311/2006 and according to the ERA 2018 list of trees and woodland protection regulations).