

Furze Furze

Ulex europaeus

Impacts

- Very spiteful on pastureland and is hardly grazed by cattle.
- Once it becomes well-established in an open area, it out-competes most other species which then forms a dense cover, making access difficult and hard to control
- It is difficult to cut or spray due to the shape, and can re-sprout from stumps.



Photo: Andrew Darlow

Benefits

- It is a nitrogen-fixing species, and a good pollen source for bees.
- Was formerly used as an effective hedging plant and a source of firewood, but is no longer favoured due to its spines.



Showing the invasion of Furze on pastureland at Man and Horse.

Photo: Andrew Darlow

Actions

- Ongoing management to keep pastureland clean.
- Enforcing control measures on pastureland and removal from nearby waste ground, may help to prevent sources of recolonization.
- Experimentation with less labour-intensive weed control measures (e.g. use of grazing animals such as goats to provide targeted control).