

THE PROBLEM WITH SCOTCH BROOM

Scotch Broom (*Cytisus Scoparius*)

Scotch Broom is an alien invasive plant brought to the Pacific Northwest in the mid-1800s. Now it is spreading everywhere. A single plant can produce 18,000 seeds that survive in the soil for up to 50 years. The flowers may be pretty, but don't be fooled. Remove Scotch Broom before it becomes established – and here is why.



Scotch Broom

Spreads rapidly and densely - Crowds out native plants
Leads to dramatic loss of diversity - Changes soil chemistry
Forms dense thickets - Slows and prevents forest re-growth

It's highly flammable – a fire hazard.
It's toxic to the land and grazing animals.
It's noxious – its pollen makes people sick.
Invasive species are the 2nd greatest threat to biodiversity.



Scotch Broom spreads rapidly on right-of-ways, trails, forest roads, and under power lines. It takes over any disturbed land, as well as farms, vacant lots, estuaries, wetlands, parks, clear-cuts, fields and green spaces. Broom has a detrimental economic impact on farming, forest, and tourist industries. It is a threat to native species and our economic stability.

Farm fields: The "Scourge of Pastureland" quickly takes over farmland, crowding out the healthy grasses that grazing wildlife and domestic animals eat. Mowing and tilling broom doesn't help. The broom returns - making fields useless for food production.

Forests: Scotch Broom grows much faster than trees and over 10 feet tall, overpowering and strangling young trees. Around the world, mountainsides have been taken over by "Scotch Broom forests". Farms and forestland have been abandoned. We can't let that happen here.

"Seeds of Scotch Broom are long-lived (50 years plus) and mature plants are prolific seed producers, establishing persistent seed banks requiring long-term management objectives... It is estimated that Scotch Broom costs Oregon \$47 million dollars annually in lost timber production." Oregon Dept of Agriculture - www.oregon.gov

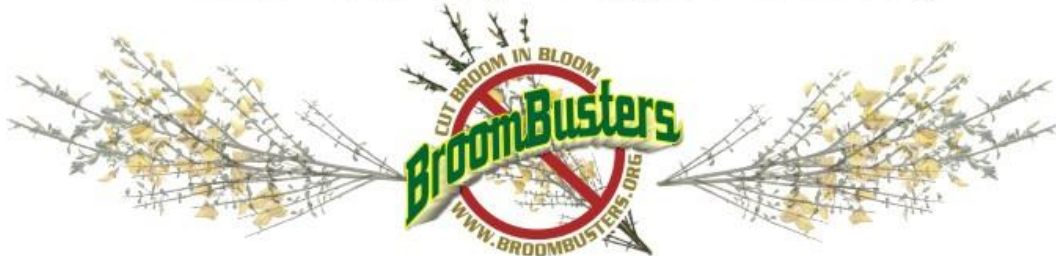
"CUT THE BLOOMIN' BROOM"

Each year, the cost of controlling invasive species increases exponentially. But you can stop the spread.

Scotch Broom is classified as a NOXIOUS weed in the U.S. Pacific States, Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia and India. In B.C., Scotch Broom is classified only as a "nuisance weed." But Scotch Broom is more than a nuisance! It's a disaster. Its spread can be prevented only by diligent efforts of volunteers, landowners, businesses, media, ministries and governments. But no one can stop the spread of broom in your community except you.

CUT BROOM IN BLOOM

www.broombusters.org info@broombusters.org



Broombusters is an information society. Broombusters is not responsible for broom removal, personal safety or property damage. Arrange broom removal before cutting. Cut broom at your own risk. Always get permission of landowners. Thank you for your efforts to control broom!

You CAN stop the spread of Scotch Broom!

CUT BROOM IN BLOOM

CUT BROOM IN BLOOM – AT GROUND LEVEL

If you cut broom in bloom, it will die in the summer's dry heat. Use long handled loppers.
Cut level with the ground – as low as you can go - below the lowest branches.
Big broom dies easily. Pull very small ones. Concentrate on areas where you can make a difference.

GO AFTER NEW INFESTATIONS

Cut down the pioneers, single plants and small groups of broom first. Cut back the advancing edge.
Work from the lighter edges towards the dense center. Think "Containment."

STOP CUTTING BROOM WHEN THE SEEDPODS FORM

Green seedpods will continue to mature even after the plant is cut. Seedpods form in the beginning of June.
Be careful not to spread the seeds! Do not move broom with seedpods across uninfested areas.
Return next year to cut plants you missed and pull up any new seedlings. Keep that area broom free!

DON'T DISTURB THE SOIL

A broom plant can produce 18,000 seeds that can live in the soil for 50 years. If you pull large broom, you will disturb the soil and many new seeds will germinate. If you must remove the roots for a garden or pasture, pull the broom in the rainy season with a woody weed puller to minimize soil disturbance.

CREATE & PRESERVE GRASS & SHADE

Broom needs sun – so create shade. New broom seeds will be less likely to germinate in the shade of thick grass and trees. Let grass, native plants and trees continue to grow.
Plant more trees, native plants and reseed if necessary. Quickly replant disturbed land.

OTHER TIPS THAT MAY HELP

If a plant is too big to cut at the base, cut off all green branches at manageable level; it will die.
Don't mow. Mowing does not kill broom, but only makes it grow back with multiple stalks.
To cut broom with multiple stalks, you must go below the multiple stalks to cut the single thick stalk.
If you don't have time to cut every broom plant at ground level in May, cut off all yellow flowers before seedpods form. No seeds! You can cut to the ground later in season or next year.

CITIES, TOWNS AND DISTRICTS:

If you have very little broom, **NOW** is the time to get rid of it. Don't allow a single plant to go to seed.
If broom has taken hold, **NOW** is the time. Light infestations first. Stop the spread. Broom can be controlled!

TO DISPOSE OF CUT BROOM: Broom cut in bloom will not spread. It can be safely moved, chipped, composted, burned or taken to the dump. Once seedpods form, seeds will mature. If broom is cut with seedpods, drop in place, stack on top of itself in an infested area, or bag the seedpods and take to landfill. Compost in place or under trees. Burning is possible in the right season if your area allows it.

BROOM IS SOFT WOOD – IT IS EASY TO CUT. CUT THE BLOOMIN' BROOM!



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