



Cytisus scoparius

WA – Class B Noxious Weed, Prohibited Plant List

OR – Class B Noxious Weed

Scotch Broom

Scots Broom, Common Broom, English Broom

Family: Fabaceae

Origins: Native to North Africa and Southern Europe, Scotch Broom was initially introduced to the United States in the 1850s for ornamental and erosion control qualities.

Range: Heavily distributed along the East and West Coast in the United States. In Washington and Oregon, infestations are the densest west of the Cascade Mountains.

Habitat: Scotch Broom commonly grows in disturbed areas, pastures, agricultural lands, harvested timberlands, roadsides, trails, riverbanks, parks, and vacant lots. It grows best in dry, well-drained soils and full sun but can tolerate a wide range of conditions. Seedlings can establish under the canopy of mature plants in full shade.

Impact: Scotch Broom is an aggressive invader that quickly forms monocultures, reducing native plant species and desirable wildlife habitat. The dense stands can form up to 90% canopy cover, interfering with the growth and re-establishment of conifer seedlings. The woody biomass is high in oil, causing it to be highly flammable, increasing the fire danger where established.

Scotch Broom reproduces by seed, vegetatively by roots, and resprouting of small cut stumps. Each shrub produces an average of 9,650 seeds, which can remain viable in the soil for up to 80 years. When the seeds mature, they are ejected from the seed pods up to 16 feet from the plant. The seeds are high in fats and proteins, attracting ants, which also aid in seed dispersal.

Description: A perennial, multi-branched shrub ranging in height from 3 to 10 feet tall, with yellow pea-like flowers. Woody, dark green stems erect green branches that often have few leaves. The lower leaves have three lobes, while the upper leaves are simple and pointed at both ends. Deciduous leaves may fall early in the year, leaving bare green stems. Young branches are found with hairs and five ridges, while those features disappear with maturity. The five-petal flowers bloom from April to June, forming flat, hairy, green seedpods that turn black or brown as they mature.

Common Look-Alikes: French Broom, Gorse, Spanish Broom.

* *Seeds are toxic to humans and livestock. Ingestion by humans may result in abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting.*



Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) combines various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. For more information, see the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed's IPM Resources & Strategy Guide or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

Continued...

Non-Herbicide Control

<p>Mechanical (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.)</p>	<p>Hand pull seedlings and small shrubs. Larger shrubs can be wrenched out with a weed wrench tool when the soil is moist. Make sure to extract the entire root or resprouting may occur. Disturbing soil may stimulate the seed bank. Cutting the plant down to the ground level when it is water-stressed and before seed production may prevent it from growing the following year.</p> <p>Herbicide application should be combined with cutting for the best results. Do not mow seedlings. Mowing can encourage a dense “carpet” of seedlings to form.</p>
<p>Cultural</p>	<p>Prescribed burning can reduce plant biomass, but it is not effective alone. Consider follow-up treatments of herbicides, repeated burning, and/or the introduction of competitive vegetation. Mulching after mechanical control work can be effective. Monitor the site regularly and promptly remove any seedlings.</p>
<p>Biological</p>	<p>The Scotch Broom Bruchid, <i>Bruchidius villosus</i>, larvae inhibit plant reproduction by tunneling into the seed pods and feeding on developing seeds.</p> <p>The Scotch Broom Seed Weevil, <i>Exapion fuscirostre</i>, larvae attach and feed on the developing seeds. In Oregon, 40-60% of the seedpods are attacked, and seed reduction in an attacked pod average 85%.</p> <p>Grazing is not effective since Scotch Broom can be toxic to livestock. Goats may be able to control the resprouting of a small area after cutting.</p>

Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment, Cut-Stump, or Basal Bark

<p>Triclopyr Ester / Triclopyr Amine (Garlon 4, Remedy / Garlon 3A)</p>	<p>Timing: Foliar treatment and basal bark spring/summer to actively growing plants; cut-stump in late summer, early fall, or dormant season.</p> <p>Remarks: Garlon products are registered for range & pastures, non-crop areas, rights-of-way, industrial sites, and forestry sites; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.</p>
<p>Triclopyr +2,4-D (Crossbow, Crossroad)</p>	<p>Timing: Foliar treatment and basal bark spring/summer to actively growing plants; cut-stump in late summer, early fall, or dormant season.</p> <p>Remarks: Observe all grazing and harvesting restrictions; avoid drift to sensitive crops; do not apply near water.</p>
<p>Glyphosate (Rodeo, Killzall, Kleenup, Roundup)</p>	<p>Timing: Foliar treatment and basal bark spring/summer to actively growing plants; cut-stump in late summer, early fall, or dormant season.</p> <p>Remarks: Glyphosate is nonselective; it injures or kills any vegetation it contacts; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.</p>
<p>Treatment Techniques</p>	<p><i>Foliar:</i> Spray complete uniform coverage; foliage must be thoroughly wet; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness.</p> <p><i>Basal Bark:</i> Spray the bottom 12 to 15 inches off the ground completely around the stem; spray complete uniform coverage but not to the point of runoff.</p> <p><i>Cut-Stump:</i> Cut the trunk at the base and immediately apply concentrated herbicide to the freshly cut surface.</p>

* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**

This control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB), nwcb.wa.gov. Herbicide information from the PNW Weed Management Handbook (ISBN 978-1-931979-22-1) and product labels.