

# THE PROBLEM WITH SCOTCH BROOM

## Scotch Broom (*Cytisus Scoparius*)

See those yellow bushes on the sides of the roads in April - June? That's Scotch broom – a highly invasive alien plant from Europe that has colonized the Pacific Northwest – especially Vancouver Island. The flowers may look pretty but don't be fooled. Scotch broom is bad news – 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 – grazing animals cannot eat it.  
It's noxious –its pollen makes people sick.  
It's a tripping hazard for hikers, bikers and livestock.

**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** covered with broom cannot be tilled or mowed, and are useless for food production.

The "Scourge of Pastureland" is a threat to our food security.

**Forests:** In Croatia and Brazil, Scotch broom has taken over whole mountainsides where forests used to grow.

If we are not vigilant, that could happen here.

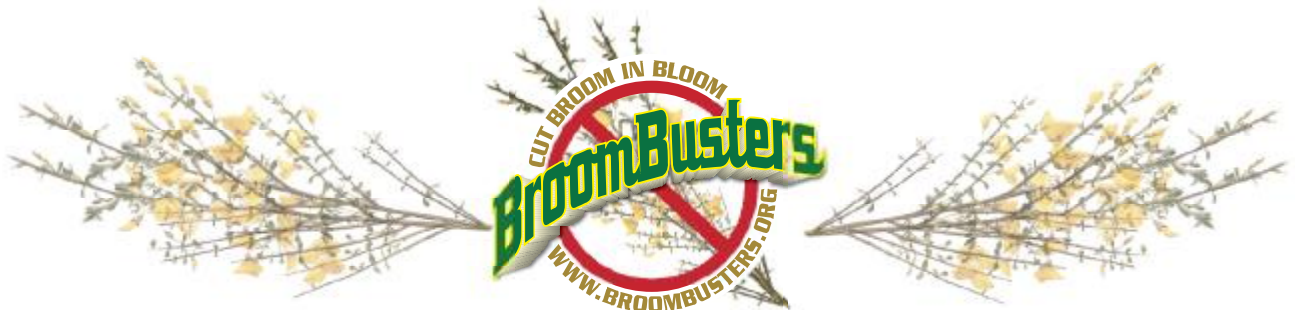
"Seeds of Scotch broom are long-lived (50 years plus) and mature plants are prolific seed producers, establishing persistent seed banks requiring long-term management objectives... It is estimated that Scotch broom costs Oregon \$47 million dollars annually in lost timber production." Oregon Dept of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

Each year, the cost of controlling invasive species increases exponentially. Scotch broom can be removed, but after it has infested an area, it is an expensive, seemingly impossible task. The wiser path is to stop the spread.

**Scotch broom is classified as a NOXIOUS weed in Oregon and Washington, Idaho, California, Hawaii and New Zealand.** In Canada, under guidelines of the B.C. Weed Control Act, Scotch Broom is listed only as a "nuisance weed." **We think Scotch Broom is a "noxious weed" everywhere.**

For information on cutting Scotch broom, contact Broombusters Invasive Plant Society.

[www.broombusters.org](http://www.broombusters.org). [info@broombusters.org](mailto:info@broombusters.org)



This information sheet is provided for landowner, municipalities and concerned residents with gratitude for your efforts to control Scotch broom!

Note: Broombusters is an information society. Broombusters is not responsible for broom removal, personal safety or property damage.

Cut broom at your own risk. Always get permission of landowners.