

## You CAN do something about 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. Cut to ground level – below the lowest branches. Use long handled loppers. No need for herbicides. Big broom dies easily. Pull the small ones.

### GO AFTER NEW INFESTATIONS

Forget the dense broom fields for now. Cut down the stragglers, single plants and the advancing edge. Work from the lighter edges towards the dense center. When you see a new infestation, cut it down!

### CUT ALL YELLOW FLOWERS OFF BEFORE GREEN SEED PODS FORM

If you cut the flowers off, preventing the formation of seeds, you have all summer to cut the broom stalks.

### OTHER TIPS:

- Don't pull or dig large broom. If the soil is disturbed, new broom seeds will sprout.
- On large plants, too big to cut at base, cut off all manageable branches, and it will die.
- If the broom has been mowed and has many stalks, dig down to find the single stalk and cut there.
- If you cut broom in the wet season, you may need to cut it again in late spring.
- If you must remove roots, do so in the wet season. Use a woody weed puller.
- The next year, return to the same sites, but it will be much easier.
- Broom needs sun – so create shade. Let the grass and trees continue to grow, or plant if necessary. New broom seeds will be less likely to sprout.

**DON'T:** Don't mow. Don't go after the dense broom fields yet. Don't disturb the soil. Don't leave a stalk - unless the plant is too big. Don't move broom that has seedpods. Don't give up!

**DO:** Cut Broom while in bloom – before small seedpods form. Cut it to ground level or just below. Forget dense broom forests for now. Go after the single plants, stragglers, and new infestations. Return next year. Concentrate on areas where you can make a difference. Stop the spread!

### TO DISPOSE OF CUT BROOM

Before seed pods form, cut broom stalks can be safely chipped, composted, burned or taken to the dump. If seed pods have formed, cut and drop in place, or stack on top of itself in an infested area. Do not move branches with seeds, as you will spread the seeds. Compost or burn in the rainy season.

Broom is easy to cut. Cut the bloomin' broom!

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