

# 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](http://www.oregon.gov)

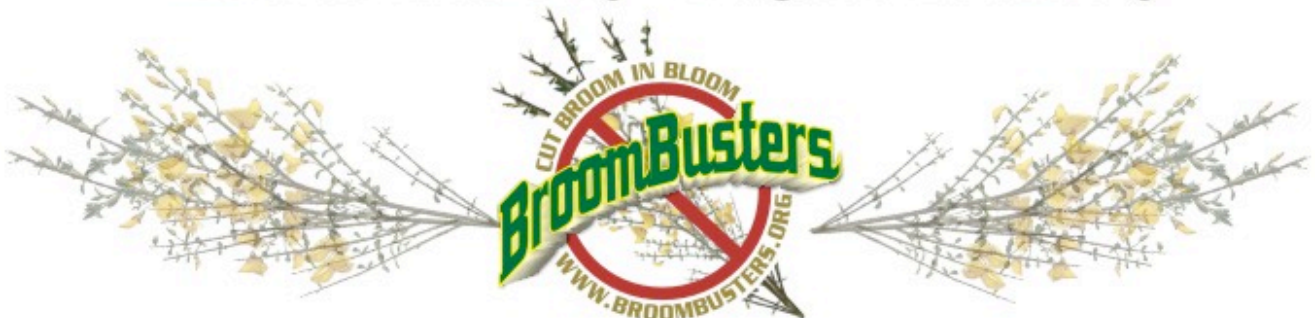
## “CUT THE BLOOMIN' BROOM”

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



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