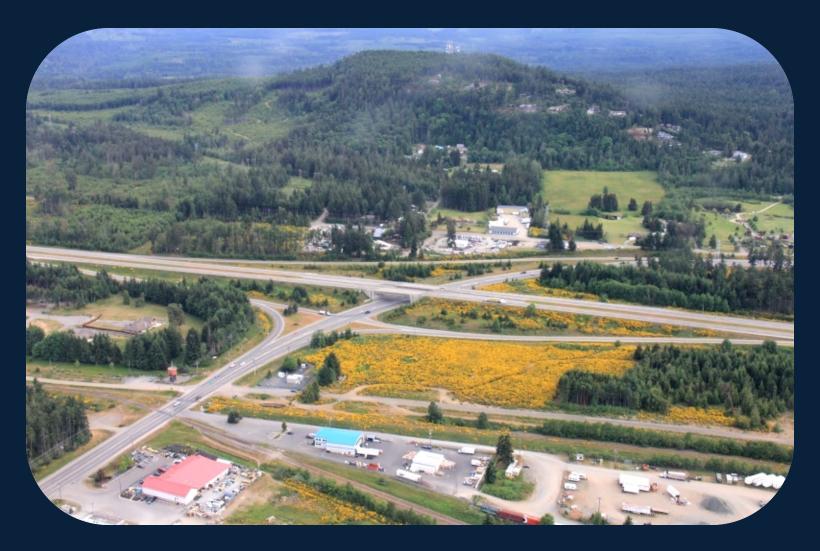


Broombusters Invasive Plant Society

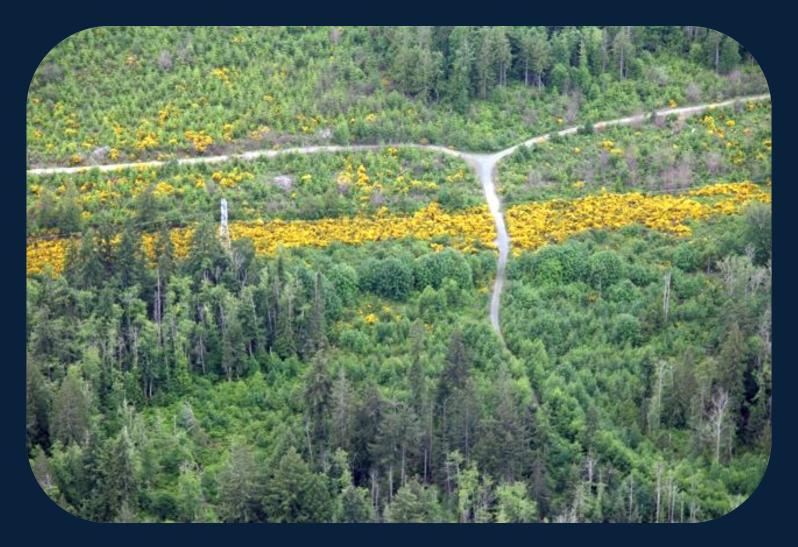


Broom quickly takes over empty fields and clear cut forest land.



Broom will grow rapidly on any disturbed soil.

In the sun – broom wins.



Broom has spread widely down utility corridors and power lines.

With prolific, long living seeds, the broom then spreads

onto private and public land.

What's Wrong with Scotch Broom?

Scotch broom is an **ALIEN** invasive plant

Spreads rapidly and densely ... Anywhere in the sun Forms dense thickets
Crowds out native plants
Leads to a dramatic loss of diversity
Slows and prevents forest re-growth
Causes allergies
Highly flammable

Toxic to grazing animals & wildlife
Changes soil chemistry
Makes farmland useless
Prolific seeds stay viable for 30-40 years

Forests in Danger



Broom in utility corridor spreading deep into this young forest

Young forests struggle as fast growing broom strangles young trees, competing for sun, water and nutrients.

Oregon estimates losses over \$47 million each year in lost timber sales because of Scotch Broom.

It is difficult for our forests to grow back in balance & good health.





Vacant lots and private property owned by absentee owners become quickly covered with broom. This is especially true of land purchased for speculation and future development.





Broom can grow to over 6 feet tall in a few years.

Fortunately, big Broom dies easily when cut. Don't panic. Don't pull.



Broom Spreads Rapidly

Broom is an ALIEN in our ecosystem with no natural checks.
A single plant can produce 18,000 seeds which remain viable in the soil for 30-40 years.





Two Myths

We can't stop broom. FALSE!

We can stop broom, but we have to do it right! CUT BROOM IN BLOOM, at ground level. Don't disturb the soil. Don't mow. Don't dig. Pull tiny broom – cut bigger broom.

Broom is naturalized. FALSE!

Broom WILL continue to take over – like it has in Australia, New Zealand, Spain, Portugal, Brazil, Croatia, on and on.

We must stop it while we can.







"Scotch Broom is a volatile flash fuel..."

Photo of a controlled burn of Scotch Broom In Powell River



FIRE HAZARD!!

"Scotch Broom is a volatile flash fuel - particularly with the mature plants.

The presence of Scotch broom will increase a wildfire's fuel load and escalate the fire's intensity, compromising fire situations and making them more difficult to fight."



Terry Peters
Fire Chief of Powell River, BC



This is what broom looks like in summer. Hotter, drier, longer summers will intensify the fire danger.

"Two invasive species cause fire behaviour & control concerns: broom and gorse."

Quoted from website of The Coastal Fire Service 2015

Now Communities and Residents are taking action!



Broombuster Communities as of 2017: Qualicum Beach Parksville Nanaimo Lantzville Comox, Courtenay Cumberland Campbell River Port Alberni North Cowichan District of Highlands Powell River Ladysmith Gabriola Island Sayward

Ministry of Transportation







Campbell River ~ 2013









Clearing Top Bridge Regional Park Cliffs with the help of Arrowsmith Search and Rescue















Some ideas for City Participation

Consider - BROOM REMOVAL

Participating municipalities dispose of the broom cut by volunteers

Consider - SIGNS

Signs inform the public, make a statement & invite participation.

Consider - PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Let the public know that the city wants to stop the spread of broom, using media, signs, and shared events.

Consider - PUBLIC EVENTS

Consider - DROP ZONES

Consider - BY-LAWS

Consider - Encourage City Workers to Cut Broom

Broombusters Key Strategies: Empower the Community

Think - CUT BROOM IN BLOOM

With loppers, at ground level, in late April – May. Do not pull. Just cut. Do not disturb the soil. No need to poison.

Think - CONTAINMENT

Go after advancing edge & new infestations first.

Think - STOP THE SPREAD

Create shade. Preserve trees & groundcover. Prevent seed formation but cutting all yellow flowers.

Think - COOPERATION

Residents, government, media, ministries, businesses. Let it be known – we are all working together with one goal.

Stop the Bloomin' Broom!

The Two Greatest Threats to Biodiversity Worldwide 1. Development

2. Invasive Species



We are the only ones who can protect our islands. To do so, we need more participating communities!



The Reason Why We Cut Broom...
For FUTURE GENERATIONS

Can You Help?
Contact Broombusters