

# SCOTCH BROOM

## *Cytisus scoparius*



Scotch Broom grows up to 3 m (9ft) in height and is an invasive woody shrub that grows prolifically throughout southwestern British Columbia. The broom flower is yellow and pea-like and it may have a red marking in the middle. Its fragrance can produce an allergic reaction in some people. Broom changes the chemistry in the soil around it so that native plants can't grow there. It grows quickly, posing a serious threat to birds, butterflies and biodiversity. Broom contains high amounts of oil, a flammable material that increases the fire hazard to local communities.

### HOW TO REMOVE:

- Pull small broom plants (less than a pencil width) by hand when the soil is wet and before it flowers. Take care not to disturb the soil. Broom seeds germinate well in disturbed areas.
- For larger broom plants cut the stem just below the ground surface with sharp shears between March and June. Try not to cut the broom once it has produced seeds.
- Remove pulled plants from area, old plant parts will release toxins into the soil and may kill any vegetation underneath. Also it will prevent the re-establishment of desirable native plants and become a fire hazard. Quickly restore sites where broom has been removed. Place in heavy trash bags, store in a dark place until completely dried out and then burn when and where permitted.
- Burning an infested site is not an effective control method as broom seeds germinate following a burn.
- There are no green waste disposal facilities for Scotch Broom. **DO NOT COMPOST**, transport, or illegally dump.
- Alternative plants: Red Flowering Currant, Salmonberry, Snowberry, Thimbleberry.
- Additional info: <http://bcinvasives.ca/invasive-species/identify/invasive-plants/scotch-broom>



[www.penderharbourwildlife.com](http://www.penderharbourwildlife.com)

