

SCOTCH BROOM

IDENTIFICATION

Green, many branched shrub, 6-12' tall. Produces yellow flowers in spring. Deciduous leaves, often with 3 leaflets. Often found in disturbed areas, like roadsides or logged sites. Seed pods are flat, hairy, and black or brown. Intolerant of shade.

This weed can overtake large areas and displace native vegetation. Its oils make it very flammable. The seeds are toxic to livestock and horses and can remain viable in the soil for decades.

CONTROL

Manual: Young plants can be pulled or dug up, removing roots. Use a Weed Wrench or similar tool for larger plants. Cutting is most effective on large, older plants with stems greater than 2" diameter. Young plants may resprout. Cut as close to the ground as possible. Do not put plants with seeds into compost.

Mechanical: Use heavy equipment to masticate, mow, or remove plants from soil. Mow or cut when plants have flowered but not produced seed pods to limit their spread. May need to be repeated over several growing seasons.

Chemical: Follow all label directions! Foliar applications or targeted application onto freshly cut stem effective. May need to be repeated over several growing seasons.

FURTHER INFO

For further reading on control methods for Scotch Broom, see:

[Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board](#)
[Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbooks](#)
[WISC - Washington Invasive Species Council](#)

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