

Weed Alert

Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)



Why is it a problem?

Although Scotch broom can be considered an attractive garden ornamental, it is an aggressive invader. Plants spread from the gardens where they are planted, and invade natural habitats such as forests and grasslands where they can form dense thickets. Infestations can impact ungulates, birds, and other native animals. Once infestations form, they become extremely persistent and difficult to eradicate. This highly invasive non-native species is listed as noxious in many parts of North America.

Key identifying traits

- Woody perennial shrub up to 10 feet tall
- Bright yellow pea-like flowers that bloom in May
- Flat brown seed pods with fine hairs on margins
- Ridged woody stems green to brownish-green
- Small leaves that are unstalked in the upper part of the shrub, and stalked in the lower
- Forms dense patches that quickly spread



Scotch broom is being spread throughout the West Kootenay as a garden ornamental. Do your part to protect the environment!

What can YOU do?!

Prevent...

- Learn to identify invasive plants
- Don't plant or transplant these plants to your garden
- Research nursery and catalogue specimens before buying
- Be careful of spreading cuttings or vegetative pieces of this plant through garden waste, dumping, or vehicles

Remove...

- Remove or control plants on your property
- Hand pull plants when they are smaller than a pencil-width
- Dig up or cut down larger plants before they go to seed. Cover the cut stem with black plastic so it does not regrow

For more information, contact...

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