

If you would like weed identification, site specific control recommendations or additional noxious weed information, contact the San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Program.



**San Juan County Noxious  
Weed Control Program  
2014**

P.O. Box 1634 / 62 Henry Road #26  
Eastsound, WA 98245  
(360) 376-3499  
*info@sanjuanweeds.org*

Thanks to WSU Extension Agent Tom Schultz, and to  
Dr. Eugene Kozloff

# Scotch (Scot's) Broom

*(Cytisus scoparius)*

Class B noxious weed

(Selected for control in San Juan County)



Photo © Barry A. Rice, TNC

## Why control Scotch broom?

Scotch broom threatens San Juan County's fragile ecosystems, including madrone and Garry oak woodlands, meadows, shoreline cliffs and rocky balds, by competing for space, nutrients, light and water. It forms dense stands of unpalatable vegetation which, when dry, pose a fire hazard.

### Before you begin:

Create a plan for revegetation before removing weeds or disturbing the soil. First, determine if enough desirable vegetation is present to replace the broom. If not, newly exposed soil can be sown with rapidly growing non-invasive plants that will help to shade out the broom seedlings.

### Tools for broom removal:

- Work gloves
- Pruning saw
- Weed wrench
- Loppers
- Mower or weed eater with a tri-blade
- Herbicide and equipment if needed

### Prioritize your control plan:

A mature plant produces in excess of 10,000 seeds that can be ejected as far as 20 feet. Since those seeds can remain viable in the soil for more than 60 years, keeping uninfested land free of broom is the first priority. Remove new and isolated plants, then work toward the centers of infestations.

Time noxious weed removal to limit damage to surrounding plants. High levels of trampling before native herbaceous plants and grasses have been able to set seed may threaten their long-term viability. Monitor the site at least every two years.

# Broom Control

**By law, herbicides must be used in strict accordance with label instructions.**

*Research on effective and safe herbicide use is on-going and often contradictory. For more recent information contact the San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Program.*

### Winter/Spring:

**Mechanical:** Uproot larger plants using a weed wrench. Smaller plants may be uprooted by hand. Seedlings less than 3" tall can be treated with a hand torch when ground is wet and the surrounding area is clear of native or ornamental plantings.

**Chemical:** Cut trunks close to the ground and apply undiluted (8% or higher concentrate) glyphosate or triclopyr to the cut stub immediately after cutting.

### Summer/Fall:

**Mechanical: Cutting or mowing plants greater than 1" at the base when the plant is drought-stressed and before the seeds mature is the most effective method of mature broom control.** If cutting or uprooting broom after seeds are mature, leave the plants in place until after seed dispersal to avoid spreading the seeds into uncontaminated areas. Uprooting small plants can be done year-round, although it is easiest and causes less soil disturbance when the ground is moist.

**Chemical:** Cut stump treatment for plants greater than 1" is usually unnecessary during late summer and early fall. Plants less than 1" base diameter may be cut and stump treated with glyphosate or triclopyr. Large infestations can be spot spayed with aminopyralid (e.g. Milestone) glyphosate or triclopyr.

**Targeted grazing:** Goats can reduce and control broom infestations.

**Biocontrol:** *Bruchidius villosus* and *Exapion fuscirostre* are two seed-feeding beetles found on broom throughout the county and may help reduce seed production.

## What to do with the remains?

Broom without seed can be chipped and used as mulch in the same area from which it has been cut, left to decompose or burned. If seed pods are mature, leave the broom in place until after seed dispersal.

### Site Restoration:

Establish dense, competitive native or non-invasive vegetation to help prevent noxious weed infestations.

### Alternatives to Scotch broom:

**Meadows/Pastures:** Sitka brome, Columbia brome, slender hairgrass, Idaho fescue, western fescue, red fescue, tall tritium.

**Forest edges/shrub replacement:** salal, snowberry, Oregon grape, red flowering currant, serviceberry, thimbleberry, salmonberry, wild rose, Douglas maple, evergreen huckleberry, red osier dogwood, mock orange, buffalo berry, twin flower. Protect from deer until fully established.

For more information on native and non-invasive ornamentals, contact WSU Master Gardeners (378-4414), SJC Conservation District (378-6621) or your local nursery.



**Weed Wrenches** are available for loan from the following sources:

#### Orcas

SJC Noxious Weed Control Program (376-3499)

#### San Juan

SJC Land Bank: 378-4402

#### Lopez

SJC Public Works: 370-0500

Please call in advance for pick-up

To purchase your own wrench contact:

#### Uprooter

(888) 801-0201 or (541) 226-9872

P.O. Box 5621

Grants Pass, OR 97528

<http://www.theuprooter.com/>