

No Room for BROOM

Looks pretty, but....it's a major fire hazard!



Photos:
Simon Henson



Scotch broom Facts:

- Introduced to Vancouver Island in 1850.
- Highly invasive, broom spreads quickly on open, disturbed soil.
- Each plant produces thousands of seeds every year.
- Seeds last over 30 years in the soil and sprout when the soil is disturbed.
- Extremely flammable, alive or dead.
- Cut or pulled plants leach toxins into the soil.
- Chokes out native plants.
- Rare and sensitive ecosystems such as Garry Oak meadows have been invaded by broom.

Seasonal Control Methods

| When | Soil | Cut | Pull |
|-----------------|--------|-----|------|
| Early spring | Wet | ✓ | ✓ |
| Plants in bloom | Drying | ✓ | X |
| Summer | Dry | ✓ | X |
| Fall | Moist | ✓ | X |
| Late fall | Wet | ✓ | ✓ |
| Winter | Wet | ✓ | ✓ |

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Management:

- Stem smaller than a pencil? Hand pull in winter. Avoid disturbing soil (hold down with your foot and tamp down soil after plant removed).
- Stem larger than a pencil? Cut at or below ground surface with loppers or pruning saw; cover stump if possible.
- Broom growing on rock? Cut – don't pull – to reduce disturbance of shallow soil.
- Cut when broom is in bloom or during drought to reduce regrowth.

Disposal

- **Small amounts (with no seeds):** Scatter plants on site or pile in shady spot.
- **Large amounts:** Chip on-site. Pile chipped material in shady places or transport to Blackburn landfill.
- **Avoid Transporting broom with seeds.** If necessary, move cut or chipped material to the landfill in strong garbage bags or on tarps in securely covered loads.

More information

www.goert.ca

www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca

www.broombusters.org

CRD

Making a difference...together



CONSERVANCY

www.saltspringconservancy.ca
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