

WEED WATCH

Scotch Broom



Weed Watch is part of the district's effort to raise awareness about noxious weeds and their impact on natural resources and the local economy. For more information about scotch broom and other invasive weeds visit www.yamhillswcd.org/weeds.

Description

Scotch Broom is a woody shrub growing to 10 feet tall with many more-or-less erect branches that are angled and dark green. Foliage is small deciduous 3-part leaflets. Flowers are showy, yellow, and abundant. Pods are flattened, brown or black, with white hair on the margins. Each mature plant can produce up to 12,000 seeds per year, which can persist more than 30 years.

Scotch Broom can form dense stands, limit wildlife habitat, displace native species, reduce livestock forage, shade out tree seedlings, and increase fire danger. The plant contains quinolizidine alkaloids which are toxic to mammals.

Manual Controls

Pulling broom plants to eliminate seed production and regrowth can be an effective control method on small areas, but care must be taken to minimize soil disturbance, as any seeds in the soil will readily germinate and retake the site when exposed to sunlight. For deeply rooted plants a weed puller tool can be very helpful.

Larger plants can be controlled by cutting close to ground level in late summer/early fall. Older, woody stems do not readily regrow when moisture stressed.

Mechanical Controls

Mowing is not an effective control for broom as the plants will readily sprout, but when combined with herbicide treatment can be very effective. Avoid mowing when the seeds are ripe. After mowing clean the equipment to avoid spreading the seeds.

Cultural

You can prevent establishment of new plants by maintaining a strong, competitive vegetative cover and eliminating potential seed sources. Be careful when using machinery or hand tools to minimize soil disturbance to avoid 'planting' a new stand of broom.

Chemical

Herbicide application is an effective tool for managing scotch broom infestations. Scotch broom is susceptible to several systemic herbicides. For specific recommendations see "**Weed Watch**" at www.yamhillswcd.org.

When applying herbicides remember to follow label instructions. Use caution to avoid and prevent off-target drift and be aware of restrictions regarding livestock grazing. Find more information for herbicide products at <http://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/>.

Contact Information

Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District
503-472-6403 or www.yamhillswcd.org/weeds

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