



*****NOXIOUS WEED ALERT*****

Scotch Broom

Scotch Broom is a perennial, woody invasive that we know all too well on the Oregon Coast and, while eradication is simply not feasible in certain areas, we still have many opportunities to control and prevent the spread of this aggressive invader.

Why is it a problem?

Scotch Broom is extremely competitive and invasive, especially in disturbed soils and landscapes with high solar exposure. It also releases chemicals that disrupt soil chemistry and inhibit the regrowth and establishment of native species. Scotch Broom creates a prolific and long-lived seed bank.

When Scotch Broom is established in residential areas and forest lands, it presents a dangerous fire hazard and has been shown to be toxic to some animals when eaten. It can also impede the seasonal migration patterns of our beloved wildlife and lower the ecological and economic values of our wildlands and production lands.

When Scotch Broom creates a monoculture, it further degrades our landscapes due to the absence of the ecosystem services that would have been provided by native plant and animal species. If left unchecked, Scotch Broom can create a landscape suitable for very few species other than itself and restoration can become very difficult and costly.

What Can You Do?

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is always the best tool. IPM combines many methods of control and management to produce the desired outcome and includes, cultural, mechanical, and chemical methods.

For small plants (under 1" diameter), pulling can be very effective. **DO NOT MOW** small plants. For plants between 1-2" diameter, spring and fall herbicide treatments can be very effective. You may use foliar or cut-stump method. For large plants 2"+ diameter, cutting the plant at ground level works well.

Chemical Control: Products that include **Triclopyr** are effective. Treat anytime from Spring-Fall as plants are actively growing but **take care to avoid pollinators during flowering!** Contact your local feed store for Triclopyr availability and always read & follow the label instructions carefully.

When possible, replant site with shade producing shrubs/trees or sod forming grasses etc.

For more info on Scotch broom:

[Columbia Gorge CWMA BMP](#)



Mature seed pods ready to burst. (Stock Photo)



The leaves of Scotch Broom resemble those of another pesky, albeit useful, invasive known as St. John's Wort. (Stock Photo)