

# SCOTCH BROOM

**BOTANICAL NAME:** (*Cytisus scoparius*)

**WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?:** Scotch broom is a woody plant with mostly erect branches that can grow to 10 feet tall. The branches are dark green and five sided. The leaves are small - about ½ inches long. New leaves, produced in the spring, often fall off during dry summer months. The plant may be leafless for most of the year. The flowers resemble those of a pea plant and are bright yellow. Scotch broom can form dense brush fields and this diminishes habitat for grazing animals.

**WHERE DOES IT LIKE TO GROW?** This plant likes to grow in well drained sites. It spreads rapidly along roads, where the seed becomes imbedded in the tires of passing vehicles. It can be found in pastures, cultivated fields, forests and home landscapes.



**WHEN DOES IT BLOOM?** Bright yellow flowers begin to appear in our area in May and June, followed by the formation of pea-shaped pods containing several seeds.

**HOW DOES IT SPREAD?** When pods mature they are brown and smooth (except for hair along the margins), flattened, and contain beanlike seeds. The seeds are thrown some distance as the pods snap open at maturity. The seeds have hard coats enabling some of them to survive in the environment for 60 to 80 years.

**CONTROL:** Scotch broom was introduced to the U.S. as an ornamental shrub and has since escaped the home garden and become an aggressive invader. One of the best times of the season to control Scotch broom is early spring.

## NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- Discourage people from planting Scotch broom or allowing it to grow undisturbed.
- When the soil is moist, small plants can be easily pulled by hand. Pull out the entire plant including roots. It may be difficult to remove large plants without leaving part of the root system. Any remaining root will sprout a new plant.
- Tilling can be effective in pastures. Cutting and/or mowing can also be effective.
- Biological control agents (a twig mining moth, a seed weevil, and a shoot tip moth) are available for control of Scotch broom, but have not proved effective in Idaho.



## CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- Several herbicides are effective on broom. The concentration, timing and method of application determine which herbicide and method of application are appropriate. Check with the Kootenai County Noxious Weed Department or the Kootenai County Extension Department for detailed information.

For more information please contact: **Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control**

**10905 N. Ramsey Road**

**Hayden, ID 83835**

**208-446-1290 / TTY 208-446-2145**

**kcnoxioussweeds@kcgov.us or [www.kcweeds.com](http://www.kcweeds.com)**

*Kootenai County does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in, its public meetings, programs, or activities. Requests for assistance or accommodations can be arranged by contacting the Noxious Weed Control Department at (208) 446-1290 or County Administration Office TTY (208)446-2145 with 3 days advance notice.*