

Early Detection Rapid Response Invasive Plant Fact Sheet: Scotch Broom



Figure 1:



Figure 2:



Figure 3:

Common name: Scotch broom

Scientific name: *Cytisus scoparius*

Duration: Perennial

Characteristics: Woody shrub that can grow up to 10 feet tall (Figure 1.) Branches are angled and often have five green ridges when growth is new. Leaves are scale-like and can be confused for native conifers (Figure 2.) Bright yellow flowers bloom from April to June and resemble those on a pea plant. Green seed pods form in late summer and resemble pea-pods with fine hairs along the edges. Seed pods darken to brownish black before bursting open in late summer, dispersing seed in a wide area. It is best to remove plants prior to the plant going to seed.

Treatment options

Manual control methods are the preferred method of control, as it is highly effective and allows for weeds to be removed with minimal damage to surrounding native vegetation. Scotch broom plants produce an abundant amount of seed each year, and the seeds remain viable for decades. Due to this, it is recommended to minimize soil disturbance in areas where Scotch broom is present.

Manual Control

Hand Pulling: For new growth with a stem diameter of less than 3/4", simply grab the stem with both hands, pulling the plant and its root system out of the ground.

Cutting: For more established larger plants with a stem diameter greater than 3/4", use pruners, loppers or a hand saw to cut the stem a few inches above the ground.

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