



Scotch broom is native to Europe and was introduced to the United States as an ornamental and for erosion control. This plant is very aggressive and reduces wildlife habitat and native plant diversity.

Scotch broom can be distinguished by its open branched green stems, slender ribbed stems and small simple leaves. The bright yellow flowers are much like those of the pea plant and can be seen July to September. The primary form of reproduction is via seed dispersal. Seeds are produced in flattened pea like pods that burst and scatter seeds up to 20 feet distances. One plant can produce up to 10,000 seeds per year with a viability of 5 to 60 years.

Where to get more information on Noxious Weeds:

Washington State Noxious Weed
Control Board
1111 Washington St.
Olympia, WA 98504-2560
(360)902-2053
Website:
<http://www.nwcb.wa.gov>

Washington State Department of
Agriculture
1111 Washington St.
Olympia, WA 98504-2560
<http://www.agr.wa.gov>

WSU Extension Office;
Cowlitz County
1946 3rd Avenue
Longview, WA 98632
(360)577-3014

Cowlitz County Noxious Weed
Coordinator
Angelica Velazquez
(360)577-3030 ext.2540
Email:
velazqueza@co.cowlitz.wa.us

Scotch broom *Cytisus scoparius*



**Cowlitz County Noxious
Weed Control Board**
207 Fourth Avenue North
Kelso, WA 98626
Tel. (360)577-3030
Fax (360)636-0845

Biological Control

There are several insect species feeding on broom at this time, but only two show promising results. The seed-feeding beetles; *Exapion fuscirostre* and *Bruchidius villosus*. *E. fuscirostre* adult females feed on the spring flowers of scotch broom. When the flowers fall off and production of seed pods begin, the females lay 5-10 eggs inside the seed pods. As the larvae develop, they feed on the growing seeds inside the pods. When the pods open to spread the seeds, up to 85% of seeds are non-viable.



Exapion fuscirostre adults can be seen on the top picture. Bottom picture shows larvae developing inside the seed pod and the damage to the seeds from the larvae feeding.

Integrated Pest Management Control Measures:

Mechanical:

- **Pulling** small plants is easily done after a rain when the soil is loose. Remove all root system, which may re-sprout if left in the ground. Repeated pulling may be required for several years.
- **Mowing** small plants can be effective, especially when broom is under drought stress.
- **Cutting** plants at ground level at end of the season can help reduce sprouting. Remember to follow up with stump chemical treatment for best results.

Cultural:

- **Competition** by planting native vegetation like trees and shrubs can be effective in a long-term management plan. Canopy shade has reduced broom infestations.

Biological:

- There are two biological controls currently in use in Washington State showing success.
Seed-feeding beetle *Exapion fuscirostre*
Seed feeding beetle *Bruchidius villosus*

Chemical:

Spring foliar spray — Best when applied to growing plants in early spring to early Summer.

Garlon 3A,

Garlon 4 & 4 Ultra,

Crossbow,

Milestone VM Plus

Brush-on application of herbicide — Applied to cut plants at end of summer

Roundup PRO,

Crossbow

Check chemical labels for proper use, restrictions and relevant information.