

Broom Removal Instruction Sheet

What is Scotch Broom?

Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) is an invasive woody shrub introduced to southern Vancouver Island in the 1850s. Since then, it has spread aggressively across southwestern British Columbia, displacing native species and altering ecosystems.

Broom is especially recognizable when in bloom (typically from late April to June) by its bright yellow flowers, which make it easy to spot.



How to Remove Broom

Step 1: Prioritize Uninfested Areas

Begin by removing new or isolated plants in uninfested areas. Keeping these broom-free zones clear helps prevent further spread.

Step 2: Target Infested Areas

Once uninfested areas are secure, tackle dense broom patches. Start at the outer edges and work inward to contain the infestation and limit seed spread.

Step 3: Minimize Soil Disturbance

Broom seeds thrive in disturbed soil, especially where native vegetation is lacking. Avoid pulling large plants if they bring up big clumps of soil. Never remove broom when seeds are ripe since disturbing the plant at that stage can spread seeds to new areas.

Step 4: Replant with Native Species

After broom removal, replant or encourage native vegetation to stabilize the soil and outcompete any broom seedlings. Bare soil provides the perfect conditions for broom to return.

Tips Based on Plant Size

- **Small plants:** Pull by hand when the soil is damp as roots come up more easily with minimal disturbance.
- **Larger plants:** Use loppers or pruners to cut just below the soil surface to prevent regrowth and avoid leaving tripping hazards.
- **Best Time to Remove:** When broom is blooming or just before. At this stage, the plant has spent its energy on flowering and is more likely to die back, especially as the summer heat sets in.

Resources

[Coastal Invasive Species Committee](#)

[Islands Trust](#)

[Invasive Species Council of BC](#)