



Control Options for Scotch Broom

General Information

Scotch broom can grow to be a large shrub and can quickly take over open areas. As it produces large amounts of seed, it may take several years to eradicate both the adult plants and any emerging seedlings on a site



Manual/Mechanical Techniques

Small stands of scotch broom can be controlled through hand removal. Plants should be dug or pulled, taking care to remove as much of the root as possible. A tool called a Weed Wrench may make pulling of the plants easier. Weed Wrenches™ are available for loan from the Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board. Disturbance of the soil during manual control may cause the germination of any broom seeds in the soil, so the area should be monitored to control any new seedlings.



Cutting can be effective on older Scotch broom plants that are no longer green at the base and have a stem diameter of 2" or more. Cutting is most effective after a period of dry weather in the summer (July to September). Plants should be cut as close to the ground as possible. The cut plants should be monitored for new growth and cut again, as needed.

Chemical Recommendations

Scotch broom can be controlled using specific herbicides. When using herbicides, always read and follow label directions for rates, spraying conditions, personal protective equipment and grazing intervals. Do not spray when it is windy or raining, or when rain is forecast. Do not cut sprayed plants for at least 2 weeks after herbicide application. Herbicides should not be sprayed within 60 feet of water bodies and creeks, without further consultation with the Noxious Weed Board. Remember, it is the herbicide applicators responsibility to apply the product in accordance to the instructions on the label.

Triclopyr (marketed under a variety of brush-control herbicide brands) can be applied to actively growing broom. Follow label directions for mixing the appropriate solution strength. Triclopyr can also be used as a cut-stump treatment. For such an application, cut the broom at the base and paint the stump with herbicide immediately after cutting.

Glyphosate (marketed as RoundUp and many other brands) can be applied to actively growing plants in the spring. A surfactant may be used to increase efficiency of the herbicide. Applications should be made with a 1.5 to 2% glyphosate concentration. Glyphosate will kill grass and other vegetation so care should be taken if used around desired vegetation. The loss of surrounding plants also may allow germination of any broom seeds in the soil.

Spray plants until they are just wet. NEVER apply Round-up or other herbicides to standing water unless they are distinctly labeled for aquatic use. Ingredients in these products may be toxic to fish.

- Always read and understand the label of the herbicides you choose to use.
- More is NOT better when using herbicides, and may actually hinder the ability of the herbicide to injure the target plant if the solution is too strong. This wastes money and effort and puts more product into the environment than is necessary. ALWAYS follow the recommended rates on the label.
- With all herbicides, when you apply them is as important as how you apply them.

The mention of a specific product brand name in this document is not, and should not be construed as an endorsement or as a recommendation for the use of that product. Herbicide information is taken from the WSU Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook 2010.