

# Scotch broom

*Cytisus scoparius L.*

Pea Family

## Key identifying traits

- ❑ A woody shrub up to 10 feet tall
- ❑ Classic legume flowers are showy, yellow and abundant
- ❑ Leaves mostly three parted with small, rounded leaflets
- ❑ Forms pods that are flattened, brown or black, with white hair on the margins
- ❑ Erect branches are angled and dark green
- ❑ Winter stems are bare of leaves, but usually remain bright green



## Biology and ecology

- An aggressive, deciduous, perennial shrub
- Often started as an ornamental
- A problem in pastures, forests, wasteland and roadsides
- Common pest in western WA and OR very limited infestations east of the Cascades
- Dry mature pods are often heard "popping" as they split and eject seeds several feet
- Seeds remain viable in the soil for many years



## Control

*Prevention* - Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of contaminated logging equipment especially from west of the Cascades

*Biological* - A few identified in western Washington

*Cultural* - Good ground cover and seeding of disturbed areas helps but doesn't block infestations

*Mechanical* - Digging is very effective on smaller patches if sufficient root is removed and diligent follow up is used to pull or dig seedlings

*Chemical* - Several effective at label rates; must exercise care near trees to avoid damage; timing varies greatly with type of chemical



**Where found** - In northern Stevens County a few small infestations are known on forested sites following logging; one grave site ornamental planting also in a forested setting.