

SCOTCH BROOM

Cytisus scoparius



CONTROL

Hand Pulling

Mowing/cutting at the end of a dry season, if repeated, has shown to reduce populations. Pulling by twisting of the stems (bush hog removal) can be effective but may harm native species.

Burning

Prescribed burns done prior to herbicide application in mid-summer as plants sprout has been shown to be effective. This treatment must be repeated for long term control, with high intensity burning to prevent seed germination.

Biological control

There are two species, a moth and seed weevil, that were released in the 70's in California and provided limited results. Studies are currently being done to find out their effectiveness. No agent is currently available for Montana.

Grazing

A loss of livestock has been reported after grazing on scotch broom, and should thus be used with caution. Sheep have been known to not eat the plant, though goats tend to graze on small field plots though this can reduce native

Ideal Timing for Treatment Options

Spring	Summer	Fall
	Foliar	
	Pulling	
	Burning	

plant populations. Llamas demonstrated effectiveness in California.

Herbicide

There are a number of herbicides that are effective in suppressing scotch broom. The herbicide chart on the back lists approved controls for scotch broom. Always consult product labels and read them carefully to ensure correct species/land management usage and chemical application.



Scotch Broom Life Cycle

Life Cycle	Root	Leaves	Stems	Flower	Seed/Fruit	Toxic
Perennial evergreen shrub	Taproots and lateral roots	½ inch long rounded leaflets grouped in threes.	Up to 10 feet tall, mostly erect, stiff, angled and dark green.	Bright yellow, pea-like, ¾ to 1 inch flower, arising between leaf and stem.	Pods are 1 to 2 inches long, brown to black, smooth and flat with white hairs, and contain several shiny green-brown seeds.	Horses, sheep

Herbicides for Scotch Broom, *Cytisus scoparius*

Active Ingredient	Rate	Efficacy	Comments
Glyphosate	1.5-3.3 quarts/acre	Foliar: apply at full leaf growth before fall	This is a nonselective herbicide; care must be taken to avoid application onto non-target and native species. Use non-ionic surfactant. Combine with re-vegetation to the site to prevent seedlings from reinfestation.
Triclopyr	1-3 qt./acre	Foliar: early summer actively growing and fully leafed	Selective broadleaf herbicide, low soil activity. Garlon 4 volatilizes above 86 Fahrenheit. Garlon 3A requires high volume of water. Will not injure most grasses. Thoroughly wet foliage.
Triclopyr + 2,4-D	1.5-2 gallon/acre	Foliar: Late spring to early summer while active growth	Low volatility, must wait about 3 weeks to reseed so that new germination is not inhibited.

Information on diagnostic identifying characteristics adapted from "Montana's Noxious Weeds" by Pokorny and Mangold, Montana State University Extension Bulletin EB0159.