

Common Name: Scotch broom

Scientific Name: *Cytisus scoparius* (L.)

Link

Family: Pea family (Fabaceae)

Similar Species: Gorse, *Ulex europaeus* L. another invasive shrub with yellow pea-like flowers has **dense sharp spines**. Reported in Queen Charlotte Islands Spanish broom, *Spartium junceum* can be distinguished by its fragrant flowers and rounded bright green stems. Common in Washington State.

Description: Perennial shrub to ten feet tall from a forked taproot. Stems strongly angled. Leaves clover-like, deciduous. Flowers numerous, bright yellow, arising from the leaf bases along the stem, similar in appearance to garden peas. Fruits pea like, flattened, brownish-black.

Life History: Perennial. Reproduces vegetatively and from seed. Seeds remain viable up to eighty years.

Where Found: Private yards in Sitka, Hoonah, and Petersburg. Common in Ketchikan. Widespread and very invasive in southern Vancouver Island.

Habitat: Forest edges, clearings, meadows, heath



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Impacts: Forms dense impenetrable thickets. Associated with widespread decline of distinctive rain shadow flora of Vancouver Island. Serious pest of logged areas replanted with seedlings. In Australia, New Zealand and the USA it has overrun large areas of land used for recreation, forestry, pastures, orchards and invaded natural habitats, displacing indigenous species in the process, and is still spreading.



Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)

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Control Options: Hand pull before seed set with the aid of a mattock to remove roots. Root pieces that inevitably remain in the soil will resprout to form new plants, so follow up monitoring is essential. Work from the outside into the center of the infestation, focusing on isolated plants outside of the clumps first. Use of a brush chipper may be desirable to dispose of cut or pulled plants.

Herbicide Options: 2,4-D is most effective after seed set in late summer. Glyphosate effective on actively growing plants in spring, but also kills grasses and other plants needed to compete with new seedlings.