

## French Broom *Genista Monspessulana*

French broom is also an invasive plant that looks very similar to Scotch broom. French broom typically has more leaves and bigger flowers than the Scotch.



### Credits:

EDDMapS. 2023. Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System. The University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. Available online at <http://www.eddmaps.org/>; last accessed October 23, 2023.

“Exotic Species: Scotch Broom (U.S. National Park Service).” *National Parks Service*, U.S. Department of the Interior, [www.nps.gov/articles/scotch-broom.htm](http://www.nps.gov/articles/scotch-broom.htm). Accessed 24 Oct. 2023.

Scotch Broom (*Cytisus Scoparius*) - King County Noxious Weed Alert, [your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/weeds/Brochures/Scotch\\_Broom\\_factsheet.pdf](http://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/weeds/Brochures/Scotch_Broom_factsheet.pdf). Accessed 24 Oct. 2023.

IPCW Plant Report – California Invasive Plant Council. [www.cal-ipc.org/resources/library/publications/ipcw/report39/](http://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/library/publications/ipcw/report39/). Accessed 24 Oct. 2023.

*Observation Search—Calflora*. (n.d). <http://www.calflora.org/entry/observ.html#srch=t&taxon=Cytisus=scoparius&cols=b&cc=DNT> . Accessed 24 Oct 2023.

## Del Norte County Agriculture has Weed Wrenches™ available for loan.

- Come to our office Monday-Friday 8-5 and complete the Weed Wrench Loan Agreement form.
- We have several large and a couple smaller wrenches available to loan.
- The wrenches are great for removing brooms, blackberry, English holly, acacia, any smaller woody plant you can fit in the wrench jaws.



## Scotch Broom *Cytisus scoparius*



Wide Spread  
Noxious weed

Del Norte County  
Department of Agriculture  
236 Williams Drive  
Crescent City, CA 95531  
(707) 464-0878

## History

Scotch broom is native to Europe and North Africa. It is also known as Scot's broom, broomtops, Common Broom, European broom, Irish broom, and English broom. It was introduced to North America in the 1850's as an ornamental and was used for erosion control.

## Distribution

Scotch broom is widely distributed throughout the east and west coasts of North America including Alaska and Hawaii. Scotch broom is found in most California counties. Scotch broom is widespread in Del Norte County along highways, trails, stream banks and disturbed areas.



## Habitat

Scotch broom prefers full sunlight and dry sandy soils but will survive under many conditions. It does not do well in arid, cold areas. It will invade disturbed areas, pastures, stream beds, burned areas, really anywhere it can get established.

## Trouble with Scotch Broom

A Scotch broom bush produces up to 18,000 seeds a year that remain viable in the soil for up to 60 years. This means controlling an established population can be a lifetime commitment. It will crowd out native species, change the soil PH, increase wildfire risk, and can be toxic to animals.

## How You Can Help Stop the Spread

If you are in an area that has a Scotch broom infestation, be sure you do not track any seeds out of the area on your clothes, vehicle, or pets. If you are wanting to help control or remove a population there are several ways: mechanical, chemical, biological, or a combination of these. Cal-IPC has some good information on their website regarding control: [www.cal-ipc.org/resources/library/publications/ipcw/report39/](http://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/library/publications/ipcw/report39/). Keep in mind that you will need to continue to re-treat an area after removal for years or the infestation will come back quickly.



<https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/scotch-broom>

## How to Identify Scotch Broom

Scotch broom is a drought deciduous shrub 3-10ft tall. The branches are green angled upward with 5 ridges and are hairy when young. Small leaves in sets of three, oblong and pointed on both ends. Flowers are bright yellow or yellow red, shaped like pea flowers and grow in leaf axils. The fruit grows in flat, brownish-black pods. The pods stem is hairy but not the pod. The seeds are shiny and greenish-brown to black. The seed pods will explode, sending seeds some distance away. The seed coating is very hard allowing it to survive in water and in digestive tracts.



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