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SCOTCH BROOM MANAGEMENT TIPS

Scotch broom, a member of the Pea family, is a perennial shrub that reproduces only by seed. The flowers are bright yellow. Mature plants can grow up to 13 feet tall. The fruit is a flattened pod that resembles a snap pea. The root is a taproot with lateral roots. **Scotch broom can produce up to 30,000 seeds that may last up to 30 years in the soil.** It can be toxic to livestock, but is rarely grazed. Scotch broom can out-compete native species for light and nutrients and can form dense stands.



Management and control efforts must be planned for many years at the existing site in order to prevent seed formation/dispersal and to monitor for, and appropriately treat, any new plants that emerge.

Prevention is key. Scotch broom has a limited presence in Montana. In the event that Scotch broom plants are found, immediate treatment is necessary to prevent spread. If found, please contact your county Weed District.

Effective control measures for the management of Scotch broom include:

1. **Mechanical (mowing):** Mowing or cutting at the end of summer has been shown to significantly reduce re-sprouting and overall population size, if done repeatedly. Do not cut the stems below the soil surface as this may disturb the soil and allow seeds to germinate.
2. **Herbicide: Always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** Calibrate your equipment to ensure that you are adding the proper amount of herbicide to your tank. The following herbicides are commonly used to manage Scotch broom.

Mixing rates in small backpack or hand sprayers are as follows:

Crossbow:	6 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
Glyphosate:	2 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
Garlon 3A:	4 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
Capstone:	4 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.

Rates in large sprayers are as follows:

Crossbow:	1.5 gallons herbicide per acre.
Glyphosate:	1.5 % solution.
Garlon 3A:	1 gallon herbicide per acre.
Capstone:	3 – 4 quarts herbicide per acre.

NOTE: Adding a surfactant to your tank mix may enhance the performance of your herbicide and is required for certain herbicides (read the label). Add 0.5 - 1 oz per gallon of water for backpack sprayers or 1 – 2 pints per 100 gallons for large sprayers.

3. **Cultural (revegetation):** Following an herbicide application, planting desirable plant species to compete with Scotch broom in areas of severe infestation is recommended.
4. **Prescribed burning:** Prescribed burning can be used successfully, but requires multiple burns to effectively control this species.
5. **Integrated management:** Management of Scotch broom is more effective when more than one strategy is used.