

Scotch Broom

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What is Scotch Broom?

- Scotch broom is a plant native to most of western Europe and some of Northwest Africa.
- Bushy plant that can grow up to twelve feet tall.
- Has yellow flowers that flower from April to June.
- Has bean like seed pods.
- Has a taproot root system (like a carrot).
- Can live up to 30 years.
- Can grow up to 12 ft tall.



How does it Reproduce?



- Scotch Broom can produce up to 18,000 seeds a year.
- The flowers have no nectar only pollen.
- The flowers are pressure sensitive and when an insect of sufficient size lands on the flower the pistil and stamens pop out and throw pollen at the insect.
- The ripe seeds (look dried out) will open and throw the seeds. With no interference the seeds can be thrown up to five meters.
- Seeds can stay dormant in the soil for up to 80 years.

Where is it invasive?

- The plant is spreading rapidly in North America
- The plant is spreading from natural causes and people planting it as decoration.
- Scotch Broom has been registered as an invasive species in Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, Wisconsin, Georgia and South Carolina



What makes it damaging?



- Scotch Broom grows very quickly and can live for up to 30 years.
- The plant takes most of the nutrients from the soil and out compete other plant life.
- The plants produce lots of seedlings and can quickly cover hillsides making it almost impossible for native plantlife to grow.

