



Cytisus scoparius (L.) Link, Scotch broom, English broom, Fabaceae

Varieties: *Cytisus scoparius* var. *andreaus* (Puiss.) Dippel, *Cytisus scoparius* var. *scoparius* (L.) Link (https://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=501966#null)



Scotch broom habit. Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org.

Species Description & Habitat

Species Description

Scotch broom is a perennial shrub that grows from 1-3 m tall, but can reach to 4 m tall. A distinctive characteristic of the species is that the stems are five-angled and remain green all year. Leaves are small, alternate and compound with 3 leaflets. The leaves are often not noticeable, due to the dark green stems. The flowers are present from May to June, are bright yellow and are single or in pairs in the upper leaf axils. Blooms occur from late May to June. Seed pods are fuzzy on the edges and 2.5-5 cm long. They explode when mature.

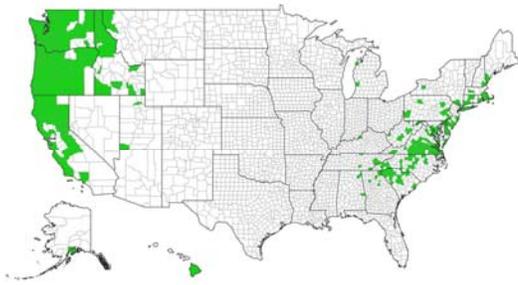
Habitat

In the United States, this species is found along roadsides, coastal sites, disturbed sites, pastures, and dry scrubland. Its nitrogen fixing ability allows it to compete successfully on poor, dry, sandy soils. It grows well in full sun.

Introduction and Impact

Scotch broom is native to all of Europe, including the British Isles, and to the islands of the Azores, the Canaries, and Madeira. It was introduced on the east coast of the US, date unknown, as an ornamental.

Scotch broom is a prolific seed producer and an aggressive fast-growing invader that can form dense impenetrable monospecific stands that degrade native grasslands, forests, rangelands, and agricultural lands; prevent the regeneration of natural forests and prairies; and create fire hazards. Its nitrogen fixing ability makes it very competitive in areas with poor soils. It can alter the nutrient cycling of invaded areas.



States where Scotch broom occurs. EDDMapS. 2018. 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 May 27, 2018.

Distribution in Introduced Range

In the United States, this species is found in states on both the east and west coasts as well as Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, and West Virginia.

Scotch broom also occurs in Canada, Chile and Argentina, the eastern halves of both islands of New Zealand, Australia (including Tasmania), India, Iran, Japan and South Africa.



Scotch broom flowers. Utah State University , Bugwood.org.



Scotch broom leaves and distinctive five-angled stem. Tom Heutte, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org.

Control and Management

This species can be controlled using an integrated approach that includes manual, mechanical, thermal (weed burners), biological control agents, and chemical means. Small infestations and seedlings can be hand-pulled. Hoeing, cutting, hand-digging, and mowing or cutting are also effective in combination with other methods. Prescribed grazing may be effective. A range of herbicides are also effective in treating this species: 2,4-D, alone or with additives (diquat, picloram, dicamba, and sodium chlorate), picloram, and

Regulatory Status

Scotch broom is listed as a noxious weed in Hawaii and Idaho, C list noxious weed in California, a B designated weed and Quarantine species in Oregon, a Class B noxious weed, and a noxious weed seed and plant quarantine in Washington state .

References and Resources

Bugwood Wiki (https://wiki.bugwood.org/Cytisus_scoparius). Updated 8 January 2014. Accessed 27 May 2018.

Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), Invasive Species Compendium. *Cytisus scoparius* (Scotch broom) Datasheet (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/17610>). Copyright 2018. Accessed 27 May 2018.

Integrated Taxonomic Information System, ITIS (<https://www.itis.gov/>). Accessed 26 May 2018. (Naming convention follows ITIS).

United States Department of Agriculture Plants Database (<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=CYSC4>). Accessed 27 May 2018.

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