

# UCLUELET RECREATION

Broom Busting Edition



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## HISTORICAL BROOM

Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) is an invasive species that was first planted on Vancouver Island in the early 1850's. Not knowing its detriments to the soil, it was mostly used to stabilize roadside banks.

Native to Europe, this plant was also used to pack whiskey cases for their journey to the western world. Once they arrived, the broom would be discarded resulting in its rapid multiplication here in British Columbia .

Did you know, one broom plant can produce between 10,000 - 18,000 seeds? No wonder the rate of reproduction is so high!

This plant is able to change the soil nutrients, is highly flammable, and inhibits the growth of other native plants, flowers and trees.



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## CUT BROOM IN BLOOM

There are a few techniques to cutting Broom and the easiest, most efficient way is to get to the mother branch! Each plant is made up of multiple branches however, every single sub branch is attached to a mother trunk. Be sure to cut the mother branch as close to the ground as possible to ensure no buds or rogue branches get left behind.

It's best to cut Broom during the Spring as it is very vulnerable in its early stages of life and getting to the root system isn't as important. Chopping the plant at the base ensures the soil doesn't become disrupted and the summer heat can kill off the remainder of what is still living.

Broom thrives in disturbed soil which means pulling it from the ground is not a best practice. Remember, Broom produces up to 18,000 seeds which means if you find a plant, there are seeds in the ground waiting to be germinated. Pulling Broom from its root system gives these seeds access to sunlight which is the perfect condition to germinate, flower and invade an area. Despite it's beauty, studies have found that Scotch Broom is considered a great threat to the biodiversity of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. So get out there and **CUT BROOM IN BLOOM**.



SPRING TIME  
MOTTO:  
CUT BROOM IN  
BLOOM!

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
ABOUT THIS  
INVASIVE SPECIES,  
VISIT:  
[WWW.BROOMBUSTERS.ORG](http://WWW.BROOMBUSTERS.ORG)



UCLUELET COMMUNITY CENTRE  
500 MATTERSON DR.  
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250-726-7772



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## BROOM BUSTING EVENT INFO

### PREVENTION TIPS

- REDUCE SOIL DISRUPTION
- REMOVE BROOM BEFORE IT FLOWERS
- USE A PHOSPHOROUS RICH FERTILIZER OR WOOD MULCH
- PLANT A NATIVE SPECIES

## BROOM BUSTING

Saturday, June 18th - Sunday, June 19th

A **refuse bin** will be provided for broom drop off at the **Seaplane Base Rec Hall** from **Saturday, June 18th - Sunday, June 19th**

**\* PLEASE, NO HOUSEHOLD WASTE.**

**NEIGHBORHOOD CHALLENGE!  
CUT BROOM IN BLOOM**



Help contain the spread of Scotch Broom by eradicating it from your own neighborhood.

For questions, please call: 250-726-7772



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