



Broombusters Invasive Plant Society



**Why Do We Care So Much About Scotch Broom?**

Parksville Interchange #51



# What's Wrong with Scotch Broom?

Scotch broom is an **A L I E N** invasive plant

**Spreads rapidly** in the sun

Forms dense thickets

Crowds out native plants

Leads to a dramatic **loss of diversity**

**Prevents forest re-growth**

**Highly flammable**

**Toxic** to grazing animals & wildlife

**Takes over** farm, forest and park land

18,000 seeds per plant are  
viable for 30-40 years

**Broom takes over  
vacant lots & unused land**



This photo is from Nanaimo.  
Broom on vacant property makes a city look ill-kept.





## Broom Spreads Rapidly

It's ALIEN in our midst  
with no natural checks.

A single plant can produce  
18,000 seeds which remain viable  
in the soil for 30-40 years.



Inland island Highway



**On any disturbed soil - in the sun – broom wins.**

*Parksville Interchange #46*



## Forests in Danger

Faster growing broom  
strangles young trees.

Climate change  
makes it worse...

Hot dry summers, wildfires,  
severe storms.

It will be difficult for our  
forests to grow back in  
balance & good health.

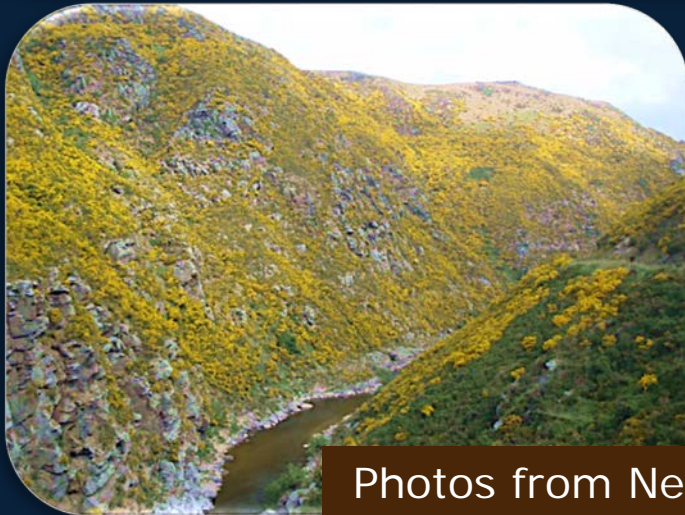


Broom has spread deep  
into this young forest.

## How Bad Does It Get?

Broom has taken over  
farm & forest land  
all over the world.

This is what we Do NOT  
want for Vancouver Island.



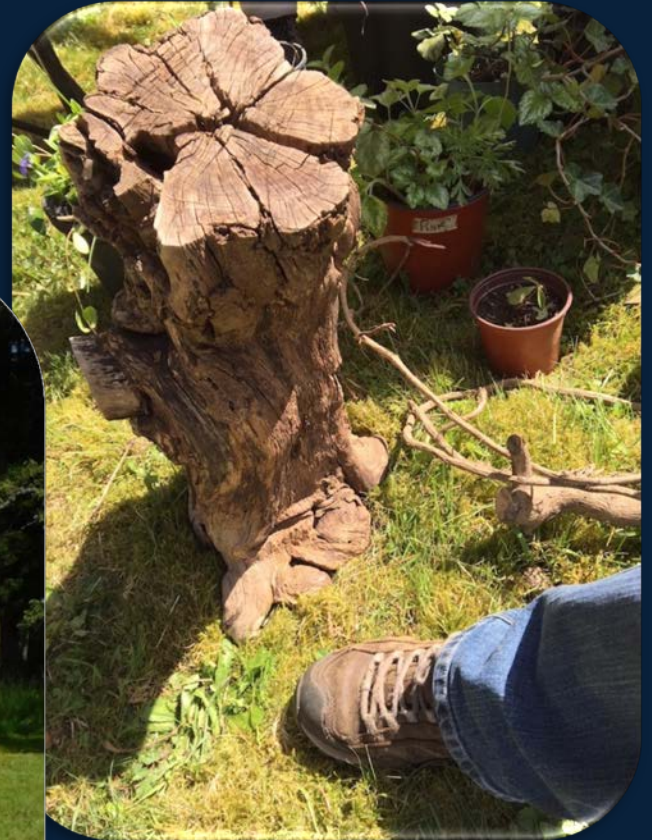
Photos from New Zealand 2018



## Broom Grows Huge - Quickly



A woody weed



Grows over 6 feet  
in a few years.





## Broom strangles native species Takes over special places



Rare Camus Flowers



Search & Rescue at Top Bridge Regional Park





"Scotch Broom is a  
volatile flash fuel..."



Photo of a controlled burn of Scotch Broom in Powell River  
Notice size of man in right corner.



**Scotch Broom is a volatile flash fuel..  
It will increase a wildfire's fuel load  
escalate the fire's intensity  
compromise fire situations  
make fires more difficult to fight."**



Live broom during a hot summer



Quote from Terry Peters  
Fire Chief of Powell River, BC





Broom on utility corridors creates an easy path for fire to travel across the island.



# Two Myths

We can't stop broom. **FALSE!**

CUT BROOM IN BLOOM, at ground level.  
Don't disturb the soil. Don't mow. Don't dig.  
Pull tiny broom – cut bigger broom.

Broom is naturalized. **FALSE!**

Broom will continue to **TAKE OVER**  
like it has in Australia, New Zealand, Spain,  
Portugal, Brazil, Croatia, on and on.

We must stop it while we can.





# Now Communities and Residents are taking action!



Port Alberni

## **Broombuster Cities 2019**

Qualicum Beach

Parksville

Nanaimo

Lantzville

Comox, Courtenay

Cumberland

Campbell River

Port Alberni

North Cowichan

Powell River

Gabriola Island

Lake Cowichan Area

& More

Ministry of Transportation

**Each year, over 500 volunteers  
cut broom for over 5000 hours**



## North Nanaimo

### Volunteers have cleared broom:

Old Island Hwy from Lantzville almost to Rutherford Road.

Many other roads and streets  
are being worked on ie. Hammond Bay Road  
83 roads are broom free  
10 parks are now broom free

We have worked with businesses to clear broom  
ie. Home Depot and Superstore



Lynn Kropinak





## Central Nanaimo



Judy Borserio



**Nanaimo Parkway Road / Trail** from Jingle Pot Road halfway to Mostar Road  
**Northfield Tourist Bureau** area. It was full of broom – now clear.  
**Third Street Park** – Lot of work done. Work in progress.  
**Lotus Pinnatus Park** – 80% clear  
**Beban Park** – clear of broom except for steep areas.





## Broombusters *cleared 33 parks*

including Pioneer Park, Oceanview Park, Oliver Woods Park, Linley Point Gyro Park, Harry Wipper Park, Queen Elizabeth 11 Promenade Bowen Park. Buttertubs Marsh.

Worked with VIU for 5 years  
Partnering with Bill's Place,  
Dover Bay High Echo Club,  
The Teocache group, The Explorer Group.

A few cuts each year working with Nanaimo Parks.



More road, green spaces and intersections than we can list.





# Broombusters Key Strategies:

*Empower the Community*

## *Think - CUT BROOM IN BLOOM*

CUT with loppers, at ground level, in late April – May.  
Do not pull. Do not disturb the soil. No need to poison.

## *Think - CONTAINMENT*

Go after advancing edge & new infestations first.

## *Think - STOP THE SPREAD*

Create shade. Preserve trees & groundcover. Cut flowers.

## *Think - COOPERATION*

Support Your Volunteers!

Residents, government, media, ministries, businesses.  
In Nanaimo, we do several cuts each year with Parks Dept.

Stop the Bloomin' Broom!



# Three Greatest Threats to Biodiversity

## 1. CLIMATE CHANGE

2. Development

3. Invasive Species



We are the only ones who can protect our islands.



# What do we ask of Council?

1. More funding for picking / chipping cut broom from the roads.

Nanaimo's *VERY helpful* Parks Department can take care of parks. Most cost effective method - hire a small chipping company like Weechipchowichan.

2. Train and use city maintenance crews/ summer staff to cut broom.
3. Request business owners to clear broom from around their business.
4. Allow a few **Cut Broom in Bloom** signs for 2-4 weeks/year to let Nanaimo residents know that the city wants to control invasive plants.

**We are grateful Nanaimo has a by-law and Invasive Plant Drop Zones!**







Why Cut the Bloomin' Broom?

For FUTURE GENERATIONS

