

Control of Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

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Scotch broom is a native of Central and Southern Europe and North Africa. It is a deciduous shrub, 1-3 meters high with bright yellow flowers from April to June. Scotch broom was introduced into California in the 1850's as an ornamental and for roadside erosion control. It is highly competitive with natives and forms dense monotypic stands that are inaccessible and unpalatable to wildlife. As the plants age, the inner stems dieback increasing fuel loads. In fall 2003 and spring 2004 two identical trials were established in El Dorado County, California, to test mechanical techniques and several herbicides using different application techniques. The herbicides tested were Chopper[®] (imazapyr), Garlon 4[®] (triclopyr ester), and Roundup Max[®] (glyphosate). Application methods included foliar, drizzle, and cut stump. The two mechanical treatments included a weed wrench and lopping. Each treatment was replicated 10 times in a randomized block design with an individual shrub serving as a replicate. Results showed that Roundup Max[®], and Garlon 4[®], both gave excellent control as a foliar spray or drizzle application in the fall or spring, whereas Chopper[®] was most effective in the fall. As a cut stump application, both Chopper[®] and Garlon 4[®] were effective in the fall, whereas Garlon 4[®] was most effective in the spring. In the mechanical treatments, the weed wrench was very effective as a fall or spring treatment, whereas the lopping was most effective in the spring.