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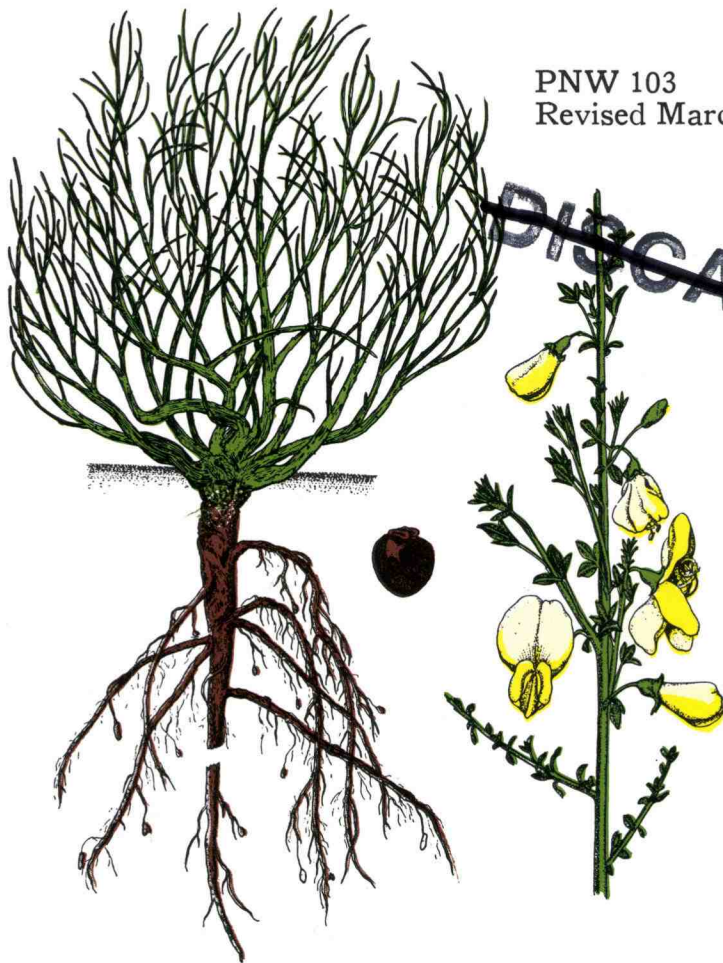
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Scotch Broom

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SCOTCH BROOM—*Cytisus scoparius*—Showing branch with leaves and flowers, nature of plant growth with roots and nitrogen-fixing nodules, and seed. Seed magnified three diameters.

A Pacific Northwest Extension Publication
Oregon Washington Idaho

Scotch Broom

(*Cytisus scoparius*)

Scotch broom is a perennial legume shrub 3 to 9 feet high, with stiff, angled, broom-like green branches. Many of the branches may be leafless or only slightly leafy. The leaves are three-foliate, the leaflets being small and entire. The flowers are a bright yellow and usually borne in profusion. There are 5 sepals united to form a 2-lipped calyx, 5 petals of the pea-type (a standard or banner, 2 wings, and a keel formed of 2 fused petals), 10 stamens, the filaments of which are united, and a single pistil with a long flattened pod, somewhat hairy along the margins and several seeded. The seed is oval, about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, very dark greenish-brown, with a shiny surface and a light rounded appendage at the scar end.

DAMAGE. The chief damage is the plant's aggressive growth habit, occupying valuable pasture land that otherwise would support forage plants with more feed value. It is reported in Europe as being poisonous, producing paralysis, but stock seldom touch it if they have anything else to eat. There are no records of stock poisoning in North America.

CONTROL. Tillage is one of the better methods of control. Usually the top growth should be burned or grubbed be-

fore plowing. The land should then be plowed as deeply as possible and given several cultivations during the balance of the season. There are many hard seeds in the soil which will re-infest cleared areas. These seedlings can be controlled by tillage or by selective sprays in grain or grass crops.

Chemical control can be attained by the use of 2 pounds acid equivalent of 2,4-D in 5 to 10 gallons of water per acre by aircraft, or 2 pounds acid equivalent in 100 gallons of water for spot spraying by ground equipment. Consult the label for grazing restrictions and other limitations in use. Spraying should be done during the active growing season before the pods have turned brown. Complete coverage of the plants is necessary for complete control. Two pounds acid equivalent of the ester of 2,4-D in 10 gallons of oil can be used to control Scotch broom during the dormant season. Respraying is needed one year later to control new seedlings and some sprouts from old crowns.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL. Stem and twig borers (*Leucoptera spartifoliella*) have been found in Scotch broom infestations. At the present time, it is questionable if these borers will be of practical value in controlling Scotch broom.

Prepared by Oregon State University Extension weed control specialists in consultation with Extension specialists at Washington State University and the University of Idaho.



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