

BROOMBUSTERS INVASIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Qualicum Beach has submitted a
RESOLUTION to AVICC
calling for action
to stop the spread of Scotch broom.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS CLIMATE CHANGE BRINGS US LONGER PERIODS OF DROUGHT AND HOTTER TEMPERATURES IN WHICH SCOTCH BROOM, A HIGHLY FLAMMABLE INVASIVE SPECIES WITH HIGH OIL CONTENT AND DRY BRANCHES, WILL THRIVE AND ACT AS A VOLATILE FLASH FUEL, INCREASING THE RISK OF WILDFIRES AND SPECIFICALLY URBAN INTERFACE FIRES; AND

WHEREAS SCOTCH BROOM SPREADS DENSELY AND RAPIDLY, INHIBITING FORESTS REGROWTH, AND NEGATIVELY IMPACTING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND NATIVE SPECIES, WITH A 2021 STUDY FOR THE INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL OF BC (ISCBC) DESIGNATING SCOTCH BROOM AS THE TOP WORSE OFFENDER - THE INVASIVE SPECIES DOING THE GREATEST HARM TO SPECIES AT RISK IN BC;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT AVICC AND UBCM WORK WITH THE PROVINCE TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT ACTIONABLE STEPS TO CONTROL THE AGGRESSIVE SPREAD OF SCOTCH BROOM ALL ACROSS BC, INCLUDING IMPLEMENTING BROOM-FREE FIRE BREAKS ALONG LONG STRETCHES OF BROOM; AND

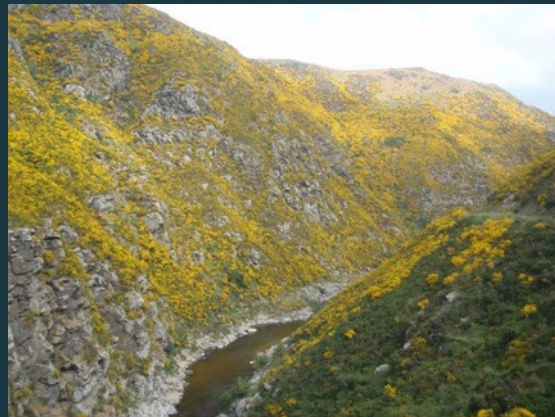
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE BYLAWS AND POLICIES TO CONTROL AND MANAGE SCOTCH BROOM NEAR AND WITHIN URBAN BOUNDARIES.

Scotch Broom has been getting off
Scot-free for 170 years on Vancouver Island.



New Zealand didn't know
how broom takes over.
We do.

Can we learn from this
BEFORE this happens?



Photos of New Zealand

Scotch broom increases risk of

FIRE DANGER

WHEREAS

Climate Change will bring us drought and hotter temperatures in which Scotch broom will thrive and act as a **volatile flash fuel**, **increasing the risk of wildfires** and specifically **Urban Interface Fires**;

Scotch Broom

- increases a wildfire's fuel load
- escalates the fire's intensity...
- make fires more difficult to fight.

Terry Peters, Fire Chief Powell River



Look at size of fire truck compared to flame

Broom in the summer has
Naturally Occurring
Dry Branches
+ High Oil Content

Photos of **LIVE** BROOM



Fire Danger



Photo from ISCBC

Broom Covering Transmission Lines

- Greatly increases **DANGER** that **FIRE could spread** across the island.
- Carries seed to previously broom-free areas.
- Blocks escape routes.



BC Hydro does not control broom because
“there is no pressure from governing entities.”

spreads densely and rapidly



And Grows HUGE quickly



inhibits forests regrowth



Scotch Broom moves from
transmission lines
& logging roads into forests

**Resulting in
Lost TIMBER SALES**

In Oregon in 2014
\$47 million lost timber sales
In Washington in 2017
A forecast of \$142.7 million lost



Outside Parksville

WHEREAS SCOTCH BROOM SPREADS DENSELY AND RAPIDLY,

negatively impacts agricultural production

Scotch broom is Toxic to grazing animals & wildlife

Releases toxins & changes soil chemistry

“The Scourge of Pastureland”

When broom takes over farms, it's hard to reclaim.



Farms near Parksville



Single plant = 18,000 seeds
Viable in soil for 30+ years

PRIVATE PROPERTY PROBLEMS

Land is too often stripped of trees:
“Cleared for development” or for “farming”
but then the land is left neglected.
Broom takes over.



Cleared 2019. Photo 2021. 2-4 feet in only 2 growing seasons

BROOM FIELDS are a tragedy
we could prevent.



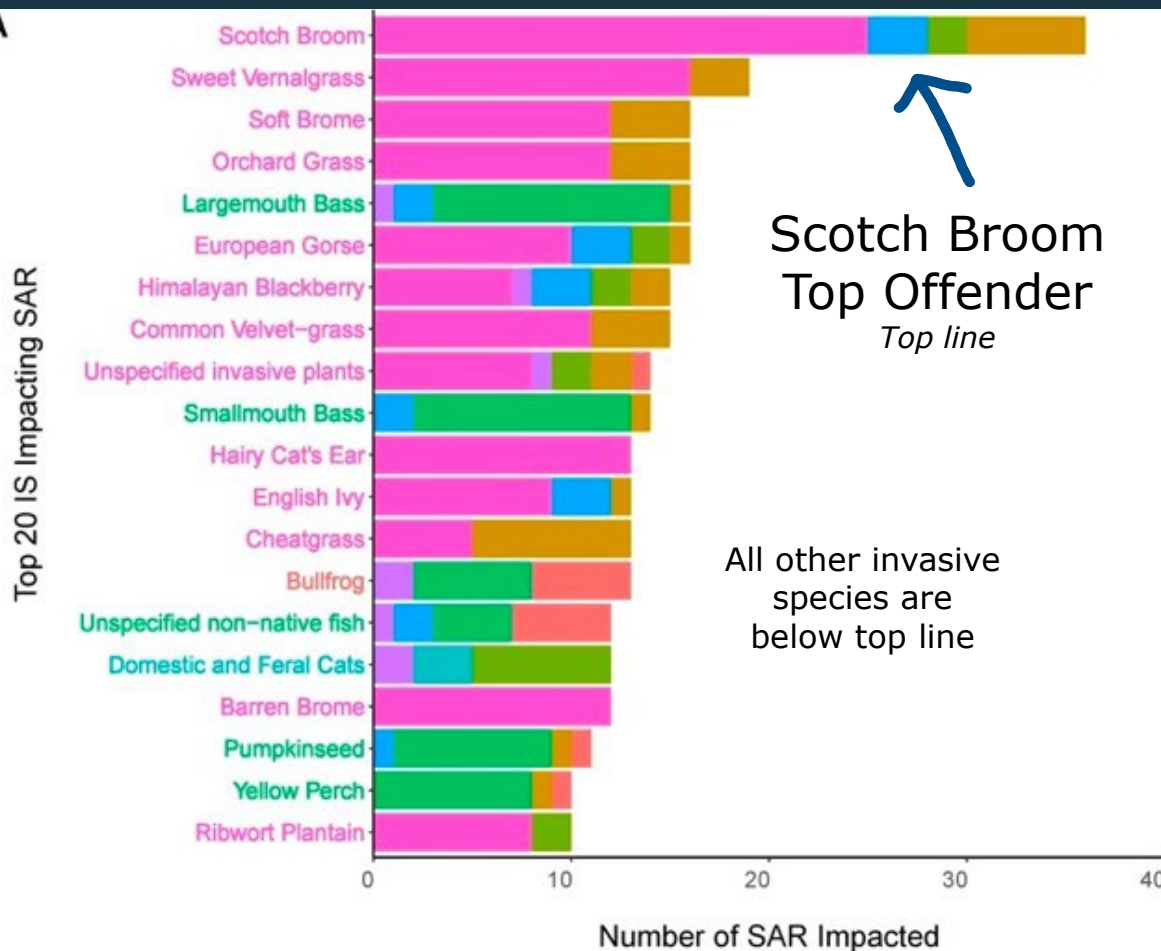
In over 10 years, no trees have regrown.



Top Bridge Cleared 2021. The next broom forest.

A Serious Threat to Biodiversity in BC

“Scotch Broom is THE invasive species causing the greatest harm to Species at Risk in BC”



According to a
2021 assessment
study for Invasive
Species Council of BC.

ESSA Tech LTD



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED... LET US
...establish and implement actionable steps to control the aggressive spread of Scotch broom all across BC.





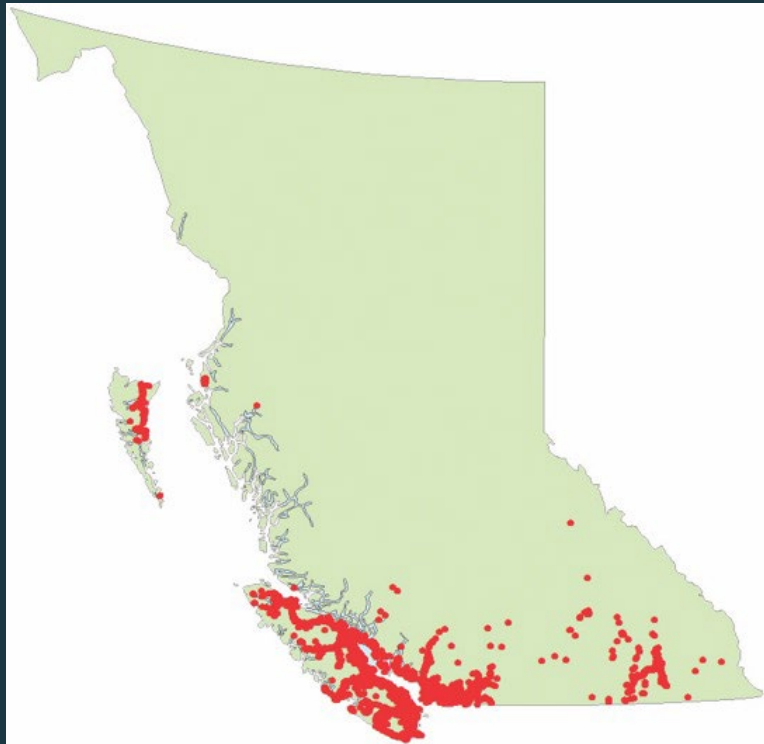
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT AVICC
AND UBCM WORK WITH THE PROVINCE
**implement broom-free
fire breaks along
long stretches of broom;**

Why is nothing is being done about Scotch Broom?

Why is it only classified as a Weed of Concern ?

Scotch broom is mostly on Vancouver Island.

So, it is up to local governments and communities on Vancouver Island to take action and speak out!



Broombusters' request is that North Cowichan support Qualicum Beach's

RESOLUTION at AVICC

regarding the rampant and unchecked spread of Scotch Broom on Vancouver Island

PEOPLE CARE about the spread of Scotch broom and they want to see action.



Coquitlam



Little Qualicum Fish Hatchery



MOTI Hwy 19

In 2022, 667 volunteers
cut broom over 6000 hours
across Vancouver Island & mainland.

North Cowichan started in 2014

Volunteers primarily in Maple Bay,
Fuller Bay, Chemainus, Stony Hill



CUT BROOM IN BLOOM
at ground level or below.
IT WORKS!



Technique matters.
Don't pull mature broom
Don't mow or excavate



After 17 years, there are now Broombusters
from Sooke to Alert Bay,
from the West Coast to Coquitlam.
17 Local Governments participate.
Participating Regional Districts: RDN, ACRD, CVRD, CVRD



Municipalities that remove broom cut by volunteers:
Qualicum Beach, Parksville
Nanaimo, Campbell River
Comox, Courtenay, Cumberland
Port Alberni, Lantzville
Powell River,
Coquitlam,
Sooke,
Ladysmith (new)

Also cutting broom
District of Highlands, Alert Bay,
Lake Cowichan, Gabriola Island, Ucluelet





Parksville, Qualicum Beach,
Nanaimo, Campbell River,
Port Alberni & Lantzville have
passed bylaws. It helps!

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that local governments are encouraged to use bylaws and policies to control and manage Scotch broom within and near urban boundaries.

We ask North Cowichan

- to Support the Resolution About Controlling Scotch Broom at AVICC
- to support volunteers of North Cowichan by removing broom cut by volunteers.
- to consider new ways to control the spread of broom in North Cowichan



Every year lost is land lost.

We can't leave this to future generations

We Can Do This!

Let's stop the spread of Broom.