

Request from Broombusters Invasive Plant Society  
to be a delegation at District of North Cowichan, March 2025

Broombusters has been a delegation to Council several times over the years.  
This time the focus will be on the increased wildfire risk from proliferation of Scotch Broom.

1. The “Bad news list.” A general list of harm done by Scotch broom in our ecosystem.
2. 600 volunteers cut broom for over 6000 hours on Vancouver Island in 2024. But already, in the first two months of 2025, over 120 new volunteers have signed up for Broombusters. Why? The horrendous fires in L.A. People are very concerned about wildfire.
3. Scotch broom is on FireSmart’s Highest Fire Risk list. It’s a volatile flash fuel with high oil content and abundant dead branches. Its dense growth increases fuel load and provides continuity for fire to spread. It’s a ladder fuel, growing 9 feet high.
4. Broom is *the worst offender of Biodiversity*. “Broom is the invasive species doing the greatest harm to species at risk in BC.” (Quoted from studies by Essa Technologies, Ltd.)
5. Broom will rapidly cover any cleared land – farmland, land cleared for development, cleared or burned forestland, roadsides – anywhere in the sun. East Vancouver Island is connected by BC Hydro corridors which are largely covered with flammable broom.
6. Where volunteers are cutting broom in our communities, it is disappearing. Where no one is cutting broom, it is spreading like wildfire. Broom has already spread beyond a dangerous point, but it is not naturalized. It is just getting started! Only we can stop it.
7. We ask that North Cowichan support volunteers that want to cut broom on public roads during broom cutting season: mid-April to end-May, by removing piles of cut broom. It would also be helpful if North Cowichan volunteers could put up a few strategic signs to inspire and inform potential volunteers and landowners.

Thank you!

Joanne Sales  
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[www.broombusters.org](http://www.broombusters.org)