

## Noxious Weed Program

In 2015, the City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and City of Nanaimo partnered with the Coastal Invasive Species Committee to bring a knotweed eradication program to our area. Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is on both the City and Province of BC noxious weed list.

The City is moving ahead attempting to eradicate other noxious weeds within City limits and now has gorse in its sights. Gorse is also on both the City's noxious weed bylaw as well as the provincial list. The plant looks very similar to broom at first glance. One easy identification method distinguishing it from broom is the sharp thorns on this plant.

Gorse is a concern to the City and infestations in Parksville will be treated. Plants will be treated on public property, mostly on Highway 19A near the resort area as well as six small plants on the boulevard at the intersection of Tulip and Shelly Road. Treatment will consist of an herbicide application to kill the plant and roots.

Signage will be erected in the area once the plants have been treated notifying of the herbicide application. Treatment will be one or two days between March 15 and April 1, weather dependent. Each plant should be treated for best results and a second treatment may be scheduled if needed.

The City of Parksville is very grateful for the support of Coastal ISC and Broombusters. Broombusters, a volunteer based organization, has been instrumental in dealing with the infestation of broom in our area since 2006. Without organizations such as these, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to win any war with these invasive plants. We look forward to continuing the knotweed program with Coastal ISC and in supporting the Broombusters with their efforts. As we move forward with this gorse treatment, we hope to see a marked improvement in the resort area along Highway 19A as well.

### REFERENCES:

Field guide to provincial noxious weeds:

[http://bcinvasives.ca/documents/Field\\_Guide\\_to\\_Noxious\\_Weeds\\_Final\\_WEB\\_09-25-2014.pdf](http://bcinvasives.ca/documents/Field_Guide_to_Noxious_Weeds_Final_WEB_09-25-2014.pdf)

Provincial noxious weed list [http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/10\\_66\\_85#section2](http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/10_66_85#section2)

Coastal Invasive Species Committee <http://coastalisc.com/>

Broombusters <http://www.broombusters.org/>

**GORSE** - Grows rapidly for the first 15 years; can live up to 45 years. Maturing seedpods explode and disperse up to 18,000 seeds per mature plant. Gorse seeds are easily distributed by ants, animals, birds, and machinery. Since gorse grows mainly by the ocean, water is a common carrier for seeds. Dense patches can hinder re-vegetation of harvested areas and recreational use of land. Gorse can also increase fire hazard as plants contain volatile oils and produce large amounts of litter. Gorse displaces native vegetation, thereby decreasing forage for wildlife and local plant biodiversity.

### For more information:

Operations Department

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