

Cytisus scoparius, Scotch Broom

Scotch Broom is an ornamental from British Isles as the name suggests. It often occurs along roadsides in rocky, dry soil and fixes its own nitrogen which allows for it to make use of otherwise unsuitable habitat.

Population Status: Confirmed- Lower Hudson PRISM, Western NY PRISM, Scattered from Maine to GA, AK, HI, WA, OR, CA, ID, MT.

Description: Leaves are small, alternate, and compound. Stems are dark green. Produces fuzzy, seed pods that turn dark as they mature. Scotch Broom can be identified by its upward, sweeping growth pattern. (Like the head of a broom)

Control: Hand-pull when possible.

Look-alikes: Japanese Barberry (invasive but widespread) somewhat resembles Scotch Broom but without the same growth pattern.

Flower Time and Description: The plant flowers in late May-June. Those flowers are bright yellow and resemble sweet pea flowers and grow up and down the stem.

