



On March 1, 2019, The United Nations recognized the critical role of ecosystem restoration as a tool for improving environmental conditions and enhancing human communities by designating 2021-2030 the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

<https://www.ser.org/news/440363/un-declares-decade-of-ecosystem-restoration.htm>



**MISC METCHOSIN INVASIVE SPECIES COOPERATIVE**

is a new volunteer organization focused on dealing with invasives in Metchosin's public lands. We're trying to eradicate the main offenders and help restore our green spaces, but we're going to need your help! Start with your own property and then please consider signing up with us for the occasional blitz!



**english holly**



**where**

- all Metchosin parks
- all CRD parks
- has invaded most private properties in Metchosin, and is moving into wilderness areas
- 100+ plants per acre in many areas
- can grow to 50' tall.

**why**

- shades out natives
- dramatically alters soil conditions which makes it tough for natives to compete
- loves riparian areas and is a water hog
- extremely low mortality rate
- cut stumps sucker profusely
- toxic to humans.

**english ivy**

**where**

- on many private and public lands in Metchosin
- Witty's Lagoon Park
- East Sooke Park
- Matheson Lake Park
- thrives in moist, open forests.

**why**

- it can suppress and exclude native vegetation by smothering them and competing for light
- the excessive weight of it growing on native plants can leave them more vulnerable to blow down and disease
- creates unsuitable wildlife habitat and forage availability
- can serve as a vector of Bacterial Leaf Scorch (*Xylella fastidiosa*), a plant pathogen that is harmful to maples, oaks, elms, and other native plants
- can damage infrastructure and trees it grows on
- toxic to humans when eaten.



**tansy ragwort**

**where**

- disturbed sites and bare ground in grazed pastures, roadsides
- full sun or partial shade
- vacant non-crop lands, and on forest clear-cuts
- the majority of seed is deposited within 10 m of the original infestation.

**why**

- toxic to cattle, deer, pigs, horses, and goats
- the alkaloids in tansy ragwort taint honey produced by bees such that it is usually too bitter and off-color to market.



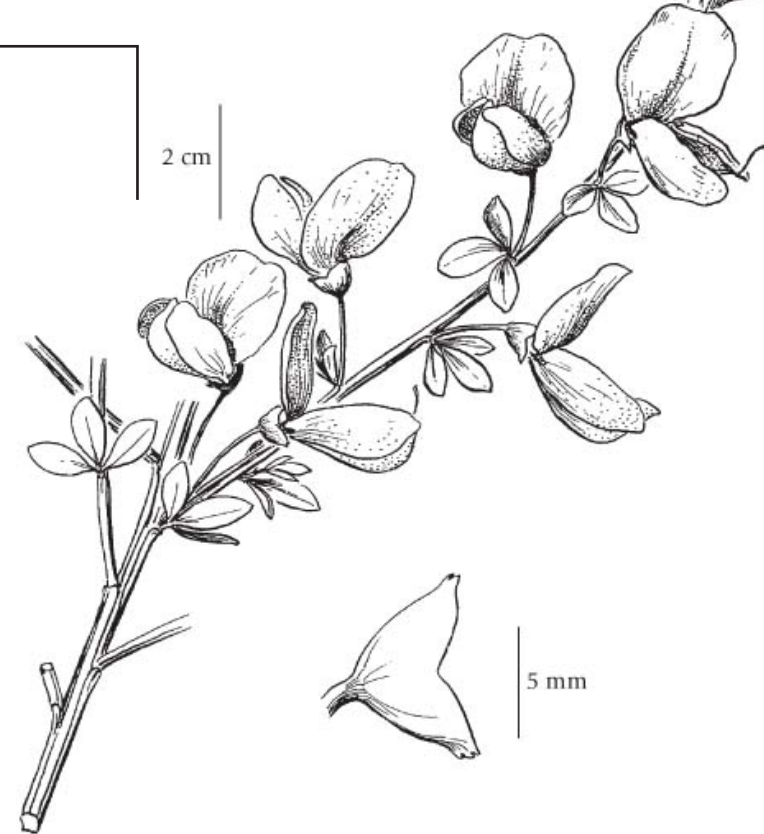
**scotch broom**

**where**

- most Metchosin park, trails and roadsides
- most CRD parks
- light-dominated, disturbed areas, and seeds can be transported by vehicles and machinery
- invades rangelands, replacing forage plants, and is a serious competitor to conifer seedlings
- grows to 1-3 metres in height at maturity.

**why**

- increase wildfire fuel loads, escalating wildfire intensity
- obstruct site lines on roads, resulting in increased maintenance costs for removal
- limit movement of large animals
- displace native plant species
- mature plants can produce up to 3500 pods, each containing 5-12 seeds, expelling the contained seeds up to 5 metres.



**gorse**

**where**

- Metchosin road sides, creeping on to private properties
- Gorse grows to a height of about three metres in southwestern B.C.
- Soil disturbance during road building and tree harvesting present opportunities for the successful germination of seed.

**why**

- aggressive colonization and spiny nature, gorse can make a site virtually inaccessible
- high oil content, a fire hazard where it occurs in dense thickets on dry sites
- excludes most native plants from the sites it inhabits
- a threat to biodiversity.



**daphne**

**where**

- many public and private lands in Metchosin
- Witty's Lagoon Park
- East Sooke Park
- does not require open or disturbed soil
- can adapt to sun or shade conditions
- found along roadsides and moist wooded areas.

**why**

- takes over natural vegetation
- toxic sap has been known to cause skin rashes, nausea, swelling of the tongue, and coma.



**pull together**

**great links:** Invasive Species Council of BC <https://bcinvasives.ca>  
BC Ministry of Forests [www.for.gov.bc.ca](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca)



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