

# Noxious Weed Department

Alan Martinson, Superintendent

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July 18, 2016

Mr. Brian J. Oakey, Deputy Director  
Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
PO Box 790  
Boise, ID. 83701

Dear Mr. Oakey,

The Latah County Noxious Weed Department supports the addition of the four (4) genera of plants to the Idaho noxious weed list including *Cystisus*, *Genista*, *Spartium*, and *Chamaecytisus*, including all hybrids and all cultivars of these four genera.

There are many species within these four genera that are potentially invasive and could harm Idaho's lands by competing with desirable and beneficial plants, and forming monocultures broom plants. Seeds from broom species can last in the soil over 60 years, waiting until optimum conditions for germination are present and some plants can get the size of a mid-sized SUV! Broom species are likely to grow anywhere within the state, and none of the plants within these genera is a plant that is native to Idaho.

While Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) is currently on the noxious weed list, it is the only broom specie on the list. Most of the landowners, landscapers and retailers are unaware of the potential invasiveness of the broom species. Garden centers and box stores routinely sell broom hybrids or mislabeled broom species to the public, increasing the chance of these plants infesting Idaho's lands.

The best way to control a weed is to not get it in the first place. Prevention is the cheapest and best form of weed control that there is. Adding these 4 genera to Idaho's noxious weed list will go a long way in keeping Idaho lands pristine by preventing the spread of broom species.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Alan Martinson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alan Martinson  
Latah County Weed Superintendent

CC: Lloyd Knight, ISDA Plant Industires.  
Bryce Fowler, IAWCS Chairman  
Rick Waitley, IWCA Executive Director  
Art Talsma, IWCC Chairman