



Don't Get Burned by Flammable Invasive Weeds!



LAKE TAHOE BASIN
WEED COORDINATING GROUP

To borrow a weed wrench to remove brooms, contact:
Nevada Tahoe Conservation District, (775) 586-1610 ext.28
Tahoe Resource Conservation District, (530) 543-1501 ext.112

For more information, see www.tahoeinvasiveweeds.org and www.livingwithfire.info/tahoe.

REMOVE DRY AND FLAMMABLE WEEDS TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

The Angora Fire taught us all just how dangerous fire can be in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Take steps now to inspect your property for the presence of flammable weeds such as cheatgrass and Scotch broom. If you find them, remove plants now to reduce the risk of fire. Replant the area with plants that are selected to maintain adequate defensible space around your home. Ideally, the area within at least 30 feet of your house should emphasize landscape plants that are difficult to ignite by burning embers, and if ignited, do not produce sufficient heat to ignite the house. These plants should be routinely maintained to keep them healthy, vigorous, and free of the dead material.



Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) is an annual grass found throughout the western United States. When mature, the seed head droops to form a "shepherd's crook" shape. Control cheatgrass by pulling plants before seeds ripen and plants turn reddish purple. If seeds are present, pull and bag the weeds.



Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) has been planted throughout the Tahoe Basin. This large shrub can be identified by its stiff, almost bare stems and yellow, pea-like flower with a strong aroma. Spanish and French broom are also invasive in the Basin and flammable. Plants must be dug out or removed using a weed wrench.

Some people refer to dry cheatgrass as "gasoline" because it is so flammable. Each year, thousands of acres infested with cheatgrass go up in flames in California and Nevada.



Scotch broom and other brooms have high oil contents. Since branches die off naturally on mature plants, there is always some dead wood, even on "healthy" plants. It readily invades forested sites in the Tahoe Basin, covering hillsides and increasing fire risk.

- Ideas on plant selection, including the TRPA Recommended Plant List: <http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/nr/2006/eb0601.pdf>
- Information on ornamental invasive weeds: http://tahoeinvasiveweeds.org/resources/pdf/brochure_DPP.pdf
- More about invasive brooms: http://tahoeinvasiveweeds.org/resources/pdf/brochure_scotchBroom.pdf

