

Getting rid of Scotch Broom? You should know:

- Any effort to remove broom will need regular follow-up to succeed.
- The best time to work on broom is in the winter or early spring; after it blooms and the seeds are mature, any disturbance will spread seeds, leading to further infestation.
- Broom seeds can lie dormant in the soil for decades and still germinate.
- One effective method of control is to pull broom plants up with their roots when the soil is moist. Small plants can be pulled by hand but larger ones will require a “root jack” tool available on loan free of charge from the fire department. (Station 3, Tyler Foote Rd.)
- Another effective measure is to apply an herbicide such as “Roundup” using a small pump sprayer.
- You can also cut the stem close to the ground with lopping shears and apply herbicide full strength to the remaining stump.
- Bulldozing, mastication, or other mechanical clearing after the plants bloom and seeds mature (usually sometime in June) will only broadcast the seeds and multiply your broom problem in future seasons. One mature broom plant can produce up to 18,000 seeds - every year!
- Broom can be burned but it is highly flammable - be sure your burn does not get away from you. Only burn on days when it is allowed! Call 274-7928 for burn day information. If a burn permit is required one can be obtained from fire personnel at Station 3 on Tyler Foote.

Putting in a culvert or bridging a creek? You should know:

- Fire trucks needing access to your property can weigh 40,000 pounds.
- A corrugated culvert pipe, either metal or plastic, should be at least 18” under the soil surface at the high end to hold that weight.

Installing water tanks dedicated to fire fighting? You should know:

- Such tanks may be buried or above ground and should be equipped with a standpipe or hydrant to facilitate connection to our pumps; contact us for plans.
- Hydrants should have a 2 1/2” fire hose fitting.
- You can get blue reflective markers to identify tanks and hydrants, free of charge, at the fire department.
- You can multiply the fire-fighting effectiveness of your water supply many times by adding a foam-producing chemical just before you need it. Gels are also available and even more effective. We can give you information on the equipment needed, prices, and sources.
- If you have enough water available you can fight small fires yourself before fire trucks arrive; a pump, hose and nozzle might enable you to stop a fire in its early stages and save your property. Again, see us for information on sources.
- Consider joining with your neighbors to share the cost of a mobile water tank and fire-fighting equipment.
- Ponds are a good source of water for fighting fires; most pumps have screened intakes to keep debris from blocking them.
- If you have good supplies of fire-fighting water, consider posting signs advising fire department personnel of that fact. In a serious wildland fire, firefighters may establish a base at your home if they feel they can protect themselves and your property.