

RECOMMENDED BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Your activities play an important role in preventing further spread of gorse. Gorse seed can easily be spread by equipment, machinery, and vehicles.

In order to stop the spread of gorse it is important to keep weed-eaters, mowers, trucks, trailers, tractors, etc., clean after working in a gorse infested area.

FOLLOW THESE BASIC RULES WHEN WORKING ON YOUR WORKSITE, AND IN NEW AREAS:

TOOLS TO HAVE ON HAND BEFORE YOU START

Hose with strong pressure nozzle or pressure washer, shovel, brushes, brooms and/or an air compressor with strong nozzle attachment.



AT THE WORK SITE

When traveling into areas infested with invasive plants cannot be avoided, consider the sequence of operations:

- Work first in un-infested areas when vehicles and equipment are free from invasive plant material, then wash/clean after using in infested areas.
- Stop and clean equipment at access points and staging areas before using them.
- Clean your vehicle before, or as soon as possible after, leaving the infested area—and definitely before working in a new area.
- Clear a path to travel in and out of your work site—this will assist with fire suppression and inhibit plant material from attaching to cleaned equipment.

Tools, equipment, and vehicles should be cleaned in areas that are:

- Easily accessible for monitoring and control
- Located away from waterways
- Near areas already infested with invasive plants
- On paved or sealed surfaces

CLEANING VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

CLEANING WITHOUT WATER



- Sometimes invasive plant material can simply be removed by hand.
- For hard to reach places, use:
- Bristle brush, broom, scraper, or other hand tools to remove heavy accumulations of soil and debris
- High pressure air compressor
- Shop vacuum or handheld battery operated dust-buster type vacuum

CLEANING WITH WATER



- Wash on a paved surface to avoid creating mud.
- Be aware of where run-off pools.
- This area should be checked and treated annually for gorse and other weeds.
- Visit a cleaning station or car wash with undercarriage washers & high-pressure hoses if possible.
- Use high-pressure washer (2,000 psi or higher) or 50-60 psi hoses with compression nozzles.



DISPOSING OF PULLED GORSE

Select areas where gorse can be contained, buried, or destroyed. Disposal areas can be in already gorse-infested areas of your property OR on a hard surface (gravel, pavement, asphalt, etc.).

FOR SMALL AMOUNTS OF PULLED GORSE

- Cut gorse into smaller sections and place material in thick bags (3 mm at minimum).
- Place bagged material in the sunniest location on your property or haul to a refuse disposal site.
- Keep material bagged for at least a month to allow decay of woody plant material.

FOR LARGE PILES OF PULLED GORSE

- Mulch and store gorse materials only in already infested areas.
- Gorse with seedpods should be covered if left on-site to dry out.
- Grinding to fine mulch with articulated arm mowers or brush hogs help reduce volume and speed decomposition.
- Placing on a dark surface (such as asphalt) accelerates the decomposition process.
- Plan to treat (herbicide or hand-pulling) in spring and fall for new seed germination.

BURNING GORSE



Gorse is highly flammable, be sure you follow local fire restrictions and have water available near your work site. Gorse stems are made of highly flammable oils that result in large, hot burns.

- Call your local fire protection agency and request an inspection prior to locating areas for gorse pile.
- For large piles of pulled gorse, cover with black plastic or tarps (4 mm thickness minimum) and secure edges with large rocks or sand bags to help speed gorse decomposition until fire restrictions and conditions allow for burning.
- Prior to burning: contact your local fire protection agency again to obtain appropriate permits, have ample water available, and choose areas with protection from high winds if possible.
- Burn piles should be a safe distance from structures or areas that can carry fire, such as a field of dry, tall grass.
- Plan to keep burn piles small, and feed into this from adjacent larger storage piles using an excavator or hand stacking in increments.



COMPOSTING GORSE

Composting gorse requires it to be mulched or ground and can create optimum conditions for secondary infestations and seed germination. If composting, remember that compost piles must reach extremely high temperatures in order to render seeds nonviable. Most compost piles do not reach temperatures high enough to destroy gorse seed and the composted product pose the risk of starting new infestations when used in gardens, etc. Gorse and compost piles may spontaneously combust under the right conditions so monitor and keep compost piles damp at all times.



THANK YOU FOR DOING YOUR PART TO CONTROL AND PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD OF GORSE IN OUR COMMUNITY.
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: GORSEACTIONGROUP.ORG

