

THE ENEMY: Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)

Strategy: This a perennial plant that was originally brought to America as an ornamental and now invades our meadow and pastures. This plant is a spiny legume evergreen shrub with dense, stiff stems that form impenetrable thickets. Flowers are yellow and shaped like pea-blossoms, clustered near the ends of the branches. Fruit pods resemble pea pods that burst, expelling seeds. Roots are very extensive, with woody crowns and nitrogen fixing nodules.

Attack: Heavy stands grow outward, crowding out all other vegetation. It forms a center of dry dead vegetation. This, in combination with the oil content of the seeds, presents a major fire hazard. In 1936 for example, the town of Bandon, Oregon, was burned to the ground; 14 people died and only 16 buildings remained unburned due to the heavy infestations of Gorse. The thick spines make the plant totally Non-forageable and livestock will not even get close to it.

DEFENSE: As Gorse is a perennial plant mechanical control can be very difficult. Pulling the smaller plants is a good way of keeping the plants off of your property, but is almost impossible on more mature infestations. Few herbicides are effective on plants. Products such as Escort XP at $\frac{3}{4}$ oz anytime combined with Vaslan (Triclopyr) while the plant is actively growing is best. If you have a license you can use Tordon 22K at 1 quart per acre mixed with the Escort XP. If you think you have this nasty plant please call as we would like to know where it is to actively remove it. Contact us if you have any questions. Like us on Facebook or check out our website.