



**Fire Department  
Fire and Life Safety Division**

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**City of Scottsdale Fire Department  
Scottsdale Revised Codes, Chapter 36-18, Ordinance #3738:**

**Residents Guide to the Removal of Desert Broom**

The Scottsdale Fire Department has worked closely with our residents, other departments and local homeowner associations to address our fire protection measures in and around the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and wildland interface areas. The need to establish proper defensible space and address a wide variety of Invasive Plants has become a high priority.

A former Chairman of the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission has worked with the Phoenix Zoo and a local research group to conduct a series of tests related to invasive plants. The goal was to evaluate measures that could address some of the more troublesome plant species. Their tests indicated that Dow Chemical's Milestone and Milestone VM were especially effective in low concentrations on Desert Broom and other invasive woody plants. The Milestone products were also found to be relatively benign to the surrounding environment.

Specifically, Desert Broom has shown itself to be very troublesome. This large desert shrub is almost always green and can quickly grow to nearly 10 ft tall. This invasive plant is very aggressive and has the ability to completely overtake areas of the desert, along with negatively impacting other native plant species. Desert Broom can burn fiercely, increases the intensity of a wildland fire and establishes a recognized threat to nearby structures and the natural desert environment. Desert Broom has proven to be a difficult plant to address and remove from areas once it has become established.

***The preferred (and best) method of removing Desert Broom is to address it while it is still a small plant and to pull it out by its roots. This is not feasible for the larger plants.***

***The recommendation for larger plants is to cut them off at the base, parallel with the ground and then almost immediately apply the referenced materials to the remaining Desert Broom stumps. If the branches from larger plants are just cut off and removed, the plant will re-grow itself in short order and once again become a dominant player in the local environment.***

For additional information on wildland fire prevention measures and Invasive Plants go to:  
<http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/fire/wildlandfire>

**Thanks for your anticipated support and if there are any additional questions, please contact the Fire & Life Safety Division of the Scottsdale Fire Department @ 480-312-1855.**