# Control of Scotch broom (Cytisus scoparius)

Scott Oneto UC Davis Dept. of Plant Sciences

Copyright © 2001 CDFA

# **Scotch Broom**

- Native to British Isles and Europe
- Introduced to California in the mid-1800's
  - Used for landscape planting, mine tailing stabilization, and roadside erosion control
- Grows rapidly and forms dense stands
- Can grow to 12 feet tall, but is more commonly 3 to 6 feet high
- Out competes native plants
- Fuel Hazard



Copyright © Brother Alfred Brousseau

# Distribution

- Found throughout the eastern US and western states.
- In CA, it is found throughout most of the coastal and foothill counties and is spreading. Estimated to infest more than 600,000 acres in California
- Increasing in forested areas, canyons, banks and disturbed sites.



USDA, NRCS. 2004. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (http://plants.usda.gov).

# Goals

- To test multiple herbicides, at different rates and using different application techniques
- To determine if mechanical techniques are successful
- To determine if timing of application is significant to herbicide effectiveness



### The site is located in El Dorado County, 5 miles north of Georgetown

# Methods

- Treatments were made in September 03 and May 04
- Treatments consisted on a single bush arranged in a complete randomized block design
- Each treatment was replicated 10 times
- Each bush was GPS, flagged, and marked with a metal tag.
- Tested 3 herbicides using multiple rates and application techniques
- Tested two mechanical treatments

# Methods

**Evaluations** • Fall treatments - 8 MAT – 12 MAT – 21 MAT Spring treatments - 3 MAT - 12 MAT



Copyright © Brother Alfred Brousseau

## Treatments

### • Chemical

### – Herbicides

- Chopper® (imazapyr)
- Garlon 4® (triclopyr ester)
- Roundup® (glyphosate)
- Application techniques
  - Foliar
  - Drizzle
  - Basal Bark

## **Treatments**

Mechanical

Lopping
Weed wrench

Untreated (control)

### **Total of 19 treatments or 190 plants!**

# Foliar

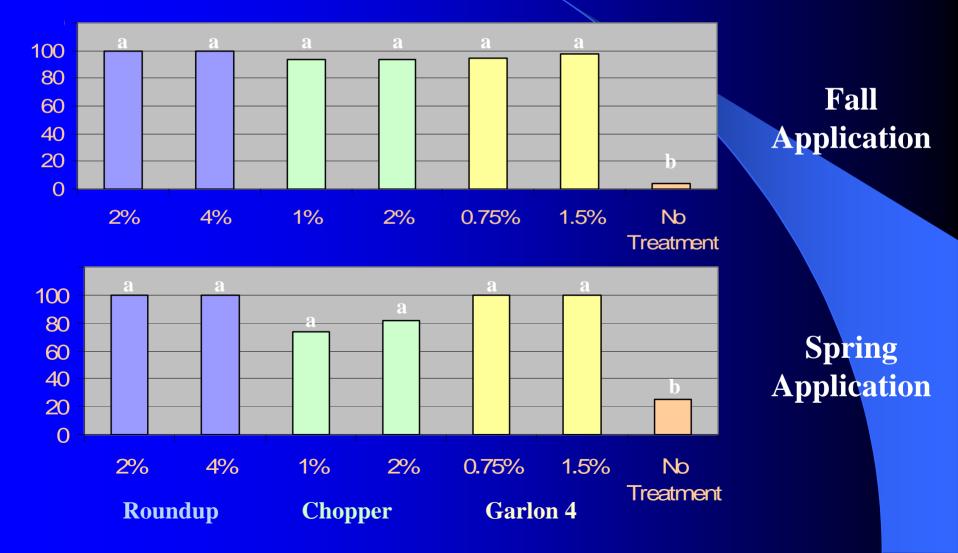
- Shrubs were sprayed with a CO<sub>2</sub> backpack sprayer and a 8002 nozzle at 20 p.s.i.
- Treatments
  - Roundup<sup>®</sup>: 2%, 4%
  - Chopper<sup>®</sup>: 1%, 2%
  - Garlon 4<sup>®</sup>: 0.75%, 1.5%



 Chopper and Garlon 4 treatments were applied in 1% Hasten Oil<sup>®</sup> and water



#### % Canopy Reduction from Foliar Treatments



# Drizzle

- Shrubs were sprayed with a CO<sub>2</sub> backpack sprayer and a spray gun fitted with an orifice disk at 20 p.s.i.
- Treatments
  - Roundup<sup>®</sup>: 10%, 20%
  - Chopper<sup>®</sup>: 10%, 20%
  - Garlon 4<sup>®</sup>: 10%, 20%



 Chopper and Garlon 4 treatments were applied in 20% Hasten Oil<sup>®</sup> and water

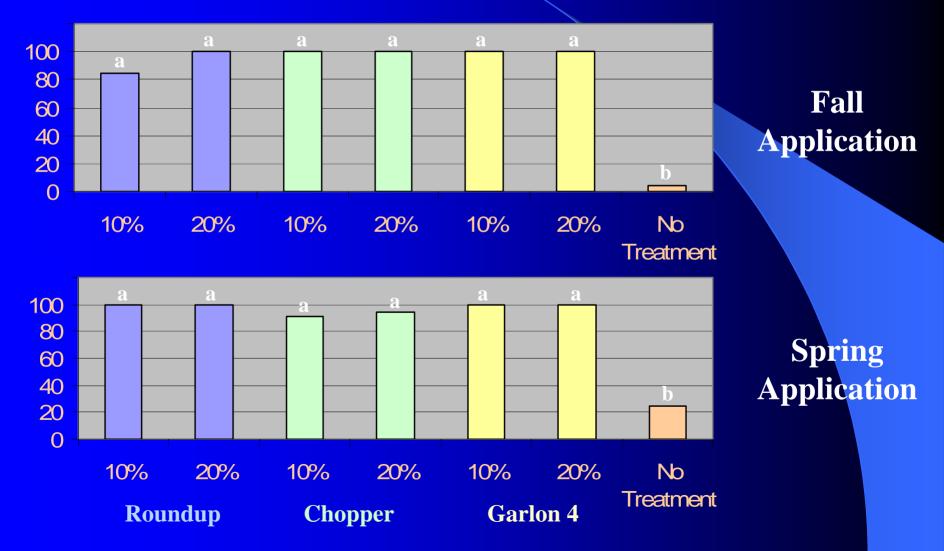
# Drizzle



Herbicide was sprayed in a "W" pattern with each shrub taking 1 second to treat



#### % Canopy Reduction from Drizzle Treatments



## **Basal Bark**

• The basal 12" of each shrub were sprayed with a squirt bottle

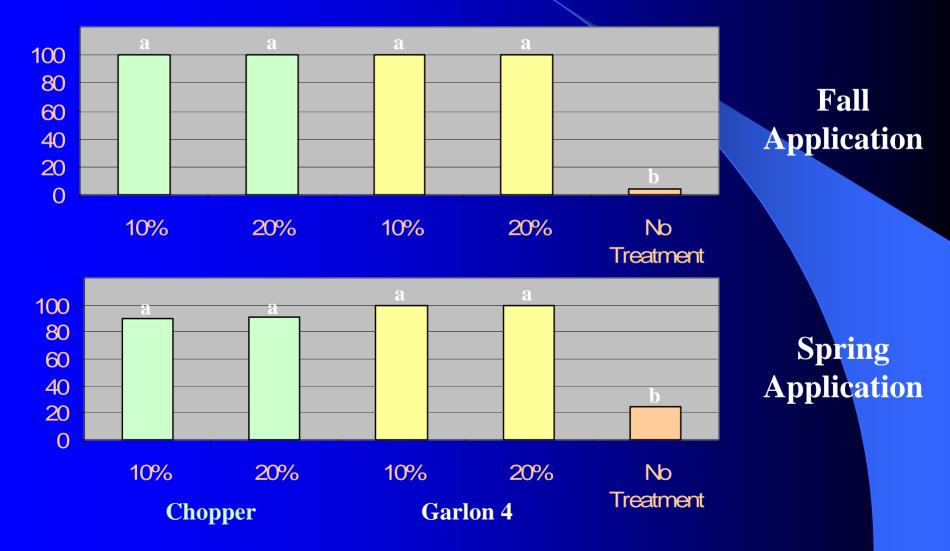
• Treatments

- Chopper<sup>®</sup>: 10%, 20%
- Garlon 4<sup>®</sup>: 10%, 20%
- Chopper and Garlon 4 treatments were applied in 50% Hasten Oil<sup>®</sup> and water





#### % Canopy Reduction from Basal Bark Treatments



# Mechanical

### Lopping

 Shrubs were cut a few inches from ground level

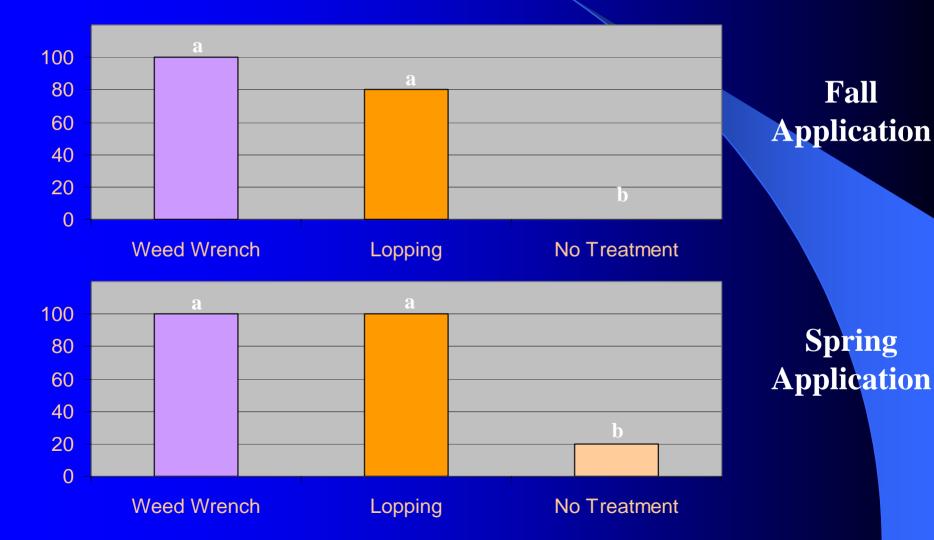
### • Weed Wrench

 Shrubs were uprooted using a hand operated steel tool



# Mechanical

#### % Control from Mechanical Treatments



# Results

	Foliar	Drizzle	Basal Bark
Roundup®	Fall Spring	<b>↑</b> Fall Spring	N/A
Chopper®	Fall	Fall Spring	Fall Spring
Garlon 4®	Fall Spring	Fall Spring	Fall Spring

# Results

### Mechanical

- Weed wrench was very effective in fall and spring
- Lopping was moderately effective in the fall and very effective in the spring



Copyright © Brother Alfred Brousseau

# Special Thanks...

Joe Ditomaso, UC DavisGuy Kyser, UC Davis

Copyright © 2005 Louis-M. Landry