

## **Broom disposal**

### **Chipping**

Beep encourages two methods of disposal once the broom has been pulled. The first is to use the chipper program. Broom can be chipped, including the roots, after it has dried. This takes anywhere from 4-8 weeks, depending on the weather conditions. Since roots are included, be sure that soil and rocks are shaken from the roots before stacking. Preparations for chipping are follows:

- Stack broom (also any other cut brush and limbs) in a row within 5' of the road edge with the ends facing toward the road
- Rows should be stacked no more than 4' high
- Keep mud, rocks and heavy roots out of the rows
- Locate rows so the truck and chipper can easily access them; no off-road locations allowed
- Chipped material will be broadcast in the area, not hauled away

In order to schedule a chipper in Forest Ranch, call Butte Fire Safe Council at 877-0984 and provide your name, address, how many piles, their height and the exact location. After verification by the local chipper coordinator, Bruce McLean, you will be notified of the chipping date.

### **Burning**

The other method is to burn the broom according to CDF guidelines. If you choose burning, remember that the broom burns fast and hot so keep the pile small and add to it gradually. There needs to be an area cleared down to the dirt for 10' around the burn pile. A water supply is needed at the burn pile and someone needs to be in attendance with a shovel until the fire is dead out. The burning of broom needs to be done when the area is still damp from the winter rains. Be sure to call (896-2537) and make certain that you burn only on a burn day.

### **Composting**

There is yet another method if you don't have a lot of broom or if you have lots of space in which to spread it around. If you lay the broom plant directly on the ground so that as much of the plant as possible is in contact with the ground, it generally will decompose within 1-2 years and return nutrients to your soil. Once it is spread out in a thin layer, the dead broom should not pose any fire hazard by the time fire season arrives.