

Rush Skeletonweed Fact Sheet

Chondrilla juncea

Asteraceae Family



Utah State University - Bugwood.org

UGA1459571



Eric Coombs, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

5435902



Joseph M. DiTomaso, University of California - Davis, Bugwood.org

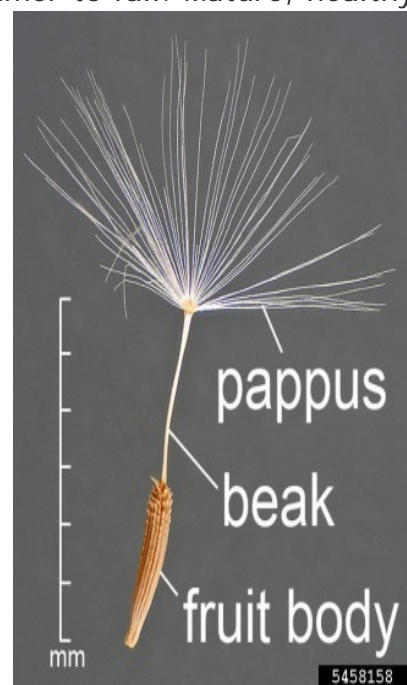
5374366

Distinguishing Features:

- 1 **Flowers:** Flowers are small and yellow and develop in the mid-summer to fall. Mature, healthy plants can produce 1,500 flower heads and up to 20,000 seeds.
- 2 **Seeds:** Fruit is oblong, tapered at both ends, and pale to dark brown. Seed production continues from July into November.
- 3 **Leaves:** Coarse-looking, multiple stems appear leafless due to inconspicuous leaves and arise from a basal rosette of sharply lobed leaves. The lower portion of stem is covered with coarse brown hairs. Both stem and leaves produce a milky sap when broken.
- 4 **Flowering Time:** Flowers bloom from July to September.
- 5 **Life cycle:** Rush Skeletonweed is a rosette in the early spring that resembles a dandelion. The plant will bolt in a few days, growing 1 to 4 feet in height. It germinates in the fall and winters as a rosette.

Impacts:

- Rush Skeletonweed commonly infests agricultural fields. Once there, it can reduce yield by up to 80% by damaging crops.
- Rush Skeletonweed can clog and damage harvesting machinery, delaying harvests and costing farming operations profits.
- Rush Skeletonweed has been known to pose a choking hazard to livestock in its adult stage.



5458158

D. Walters and C. Southwick, Table Grape Weed Disseminule ID, USDA APHIS ITP, Bugwood.org

Control:

- For very small infestations, hand pulling can control Rush Skeletonweed with consistent efforts over 6 to 10 years.
- On their own, neither chemical nor biological control methods have proven to be particularly effective against Rush Skeletonweed.
- According to Oregon State University, Rush Skeletonweed can be effectively controlled only through a combination of chemical and biological control methods. Several biological control agents are currently available and, when combined with herbicides such as 2,4-D can provide effective long-term control of Rush Skeletonweed.



Salt Lake County Weed
Control Program
www.slco.org/weeds/
385-468-6101
hoxiousweeds@slco.org

**SALT LAKE
COUNTY**