

Rush Skeletonweed Fact Sheet

Chondrilla juncea

Asteraceae Family



Utah State University, Bugwood.org



Eric Coombs, Oregon Department of Agriculture,



Joseph M. DiTomaso, University of California - Davis,

Distinguishing Features:

- ❶ **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.
- ❷ **Seeds:** Fruit is oblong, tapered at both ends, and pale to dark brown. Seed production continues from July into November.
- ❸ **Leaves:** Coarse-looking, multiple stems appear leafless due to inconspicuous leaves and arise from a basal rosette of sharply lobed leaves. Both stem and leaves produce a milky sap when broken.
- ❹ **Flowering Time:** Flowers bloom from July to September.
- ❺ **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%.
- 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.



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org, CC BY 3.0

Control:

- Due to its prolific seed production, extensive root system, and regenerative capabilities, Rush Skeletonweed is nearly impossible to eradicate once it's well established.
- For very small infestations, hand pulling can control Rush Skeletonweed with consistent efforts over 6 to 10 years. Remove every single root, as root segments as small as 1 inch are able to produce a new plant.
- 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.

*Please visit our website for references sourcing this information.



Salt Lake County Weed
Control Program
www.slco.org/weeds/
385-468-4035
noxiousweeds@slco.org