



Chondrilla juncea

WA – Class B Noxious Weed

OR – Class B Noxious Weed

Rush Skeletonweed

Gum Succory, Nakedweed

Family: Asteraceae

Origins: Native to Europe, Asia, and Northern Africa, it was introduced to the United States in the late 1800s and first discovered in Washington in 1938.

Range: Found throughout much of the United States. Infestations in Washington and Oregon are more dense east of the Cascades.

Habitat: Commonly found in open pastures, rangeland, cropland, roadsides, and disturbed areas. Rush Skeletonweed prefers well-drained soils in climates with cool winters and summers that are hot and dry.

Impact: Rush Skeletonweed is a threat to irrigated lands, wheat areas, and rangelands. Rangeland infestations displace native and beneficial forage species grazed by livestock and wildlife. It reproduces by seed and vegetatively from root fragments in the soil and shoot buds found along lateral roots and near the top of the main root. Each plant may produce up to 20,000 wind-dispersed seeds, which can remain viable in the soil for 18 months.

Description: Rush Skeletonweed is a long-lived perennial plant with a slender taproot that can grow 8 feet down. Plants begin as a basal rosette of leaves and then grow 1 to 6 branching flowering stems that can reach 5 feet tall. Stem bases have coarse, downward-pointing brown hairs and are hairless toward the tips. Stems are highly branched and have few leaves. Basal leaves are lobed, with the lobes pointing back towards the leaf base, and are 2 to 5 inches long. Leaves on branching stems are few, lance-shaped, up to 2 inches long, and mostly smooth.

Flower heads are yellow and reach 0.5 inches in diameter. They grow individually or in clusters of 2 to 5 along the stem in the leaf axil or at branch tips. Flowers bloom from July to September.

Common Look-Alikes: Sweet Clover, Prickly Lettuce, Dandelion.

** Rush Skeletonweed is not known to be toxic.*



Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) combines various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. For more information, see the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed's IPM Resources & Strategy Guide or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

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Non-Herbicide Control

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| Mechanical (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.) | Hand-pulling small infestations can be effective. Areas must be monitored 2 to 3 times per year for 6 to 10 years to remove seedlings and re-sprouting roots. Removal of deep tap roots is easiest when soils are damp. Mowing plants repeatedly may reduce plant biomass and seed production but may not provide eradication. |
| Cultural | Using beneficial forage species for competition will not suppress the dominance of Rush Skeletonweed. Continual grazing decreases populations, while rotated grazing increases populations. |
| Biological | The Skeletonweed Root Moth, <i>Bradyrrhoa giveolella</i> , larvae feed on the roots and root buds; several larvae may destroy the plant's aboveground portion and weaken the plants' ability to survive throughout the winter. The Rush Skeletonweed Gall Midge, <i>Cystiphora schmidtii</i> , larvae feed on the leaf and stem tissues; infested plants may have reduced biomass, flower production, and seed viability. The Rush Skeletonweed Gall Mite, <i>Eriophyes chondrillae</i> , feed on young buds and within bud galls; infested plants may result in stunted growth, reduced seed production, younger plants and seedlings may be killed. Rush Skeletonweed Rust Fungus, <i>Puccinia chondrillina</i> , infects the plant causing premature death or deformities. |

Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment

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| 2,4-D (Many Trade Names) | Timing: Apply to rosettes in spring immediately before or during bolting. Remarks: Annual treatments needed to control seedlings; avoid drift to sensitive crops; it will inhibit aboveground growth but will not prevent new plant development from root buds; do not apply near water. |
| Aminopyralid (Milestone) | Timing: Apply to rosettes in spring or fall. Remarks: Many desirable plants can be seriously injured or killed; using a non-ionic surfactant will help enhance control under adverse conditions; do not apply near the root zone of desirable trees; do not compost plant material that has been sprayed by this product; do not use manure from fields that have been sprayed with this product; do not apply near water. |
| MCPA | Timing: Apply to rosettes in spring immediately before or during bolting. Remarks: Annual treatments needed to control seedlings; avoid drift to sensitive crops; it will inhibit aboveground growth but will not prevent new plant development from root buds; do not apply near water. |
| Clopyralid (Transline, Stinger) | Timing: Apply to rosettes in fall to early spring before bolting. Remarks: Product will injure or kill sensitive broadleaf forages; consult the label for crop rotation restrictions before use; several crops may be injured for several years after application; do not apply near water. |
| Aminocyclopyrachlor + Chlorsulfuron (Perspective) | Timing: Apply to actively growing plants in spring. Remarks: Even low rates can kill non-target tree and shrub species, avoid application within a distance equal to the tree height of sensitive species; do not allow spray to drift off-target; can injure grass species; do not apply near water. |

* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**

This control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB), nwcb.wa.gov. Herbicide information from the PNW Weed Management Handbook (ISBN 978-1-931979-22-1) and product labels.