



RUSH SKELETONWEED

BOTANICAL NAME: *Chondrilla juncea*

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? Rush Skeletonweed gets its "Skeleton" name because once it is developed it has little to no leaf area. It begins as a rosette of lobed leaves at ground level, somewhat resembling a Dandelion rosette. Once it bolts those rosette leaves dessicate

leaving only wiry branched stems. The stems are ribbed, and the base stem has unique downward facing hairs. Flowers have a slender tube of green bracts and yellow ray petals with toothed tips.

WHERE DOES IT GROW? Rush Skeletonweed invades pastures, cropland, open and disturbed sites, roadsides and similar areas.

WHY IS IT A NOXIOUS WEED? It is a major



threat to grazing lands, farm fields and natural areas, out-competing more desirable vegetation. Once established, it can be very difficult to control.



HOW DOES IT SPREAD? Rush Skeletonweed reproduces both by seed as well as reproductive root buds. If the roots are broken up, a section less than 1 inch long can regrow a new plant.

HOW DO I CONTROL IT? The best long term weed control is to get your desirable plants thriving. Seed and fertilize your native grasses. See the reverse side for information on mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical control of Rush Skeletonweed. Also see our Chemical Treatment handout for more information on using herbicides.

Questions? Contact:

Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control
10905 N. Ramsey Road, Hayden, ID 83835
208-446-1290

kcnoxiousweeds@kcgov.us or www.kcweeds.com



Kootenai County does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in, its public meetings, programs, or activities. Requests for assistance or accommodations can be arranged by contacting the Noxious Weed Control Department at (208) 446-1290 or County Administration Office TTY (208)446-2145 with 3 days advance notice. Developed by L. Ely 110106

How to Control Rush Skeletonweed

Rush Skeletonweed is a perennial that reproduces not only by seed but also vegetatively through root fragments.

Mechanical Frequent persistent mowing may eventually starve the root system, but mowing Rush Skeletonweed can be difficult and requires extremely sharp equipment. Other mechanical methods tend to fail because they spread root fragments.

Cultural The best long term weed control is to get your desirable native plants thriving. Killing weeds is only one step, you have to also replace them with something good. Seed and fertilize so your grass can take nutrients away from the weeds and not leave available open soil for new weeds to germinate.

Biological There is a gall midge and a gall mite available for biological control of Rush Skeletonweed. Contact Nez Perce Biocontrol Center for more information (208)843-9374 or nezpercebiocontrol.com.

Chemical **Application timing is very important for Rush Skeletonweed because it loses its leaves after bolting and will not take in chemical. You also must choose a chemical that will translocate to kill the root system, not just top growth. See our Chemical Treatment handout for more information.*

- **Aminopyralid** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Milestone**. It is broadleaf selective (safe on grass) and can be effective on Rush Skeletonweed if applied during the rosette to early flowering stages.
- **Picloram** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Tordon 22K**. It is broadleaf selective and can be effective on Rush Skeletonweed but it is federally restricted and requires a license to buy or apply.
- **Clopyralid** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Transline**. It is broadleaf selective and also safe on most conifer trees. It can be effective on Rush Skeletonweed if applied to the rosette stage in fall or spring.

Chemical recommendations are based on University of Idaho Extension Bulletin 865 [Idaho's Noxious Weeds 2011 Control Guidelines Noncrop and Rangeland Sites](#), the book [Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States](#) published by UC Davis Weed Research & Information Center, and herbicide labels.