

Plant: Rush skeletonweed (*chondrilla juncea*)

Identification: Rush skeletonweed is a very invasive plant that can be either a perennial or a biennial. It has a taproot and lateral roots. This weed can grow up to 3 feet tall, with many wiry branched flower stems. At maturity, Rush skeletonweed will have yellow flowers all over it, which produce seeds with a white tuft similar to dandelions. These seeds can travel extremely far in the wind, likely 1-5 miles. They can be found along roadsides, rangeland, pastures, and crop fields. This plant is very competitive and will displace desirable vegetation. It also exudes a milky latex sap to injured surfaces. It reproduces from seed with each plant producing anywhere from 1,500 to 20,000 seeds.

Defense: Mechanical control is possible with small infestations, but you have to get all of the root out of the ground. It can be difficult to control with herbicides even. Aminopyralid (Milestone), and picloram (tordon 22k – A Restricted Use product) are both fairly effective on this plant. Since Rush skeletonweed has a rubbery stem surface and few leaves, a surfactant is needed.

**Always read and understand the pesticide label and restrictions on any pesticide you are using.
The label is the law.**

