

RUSH SKELETONWEED

Chondrilla juncea

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

Category: Containment

Utah State University, Bugwood.org

FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Rush skeletonweed is an aggressive invader that is extremely damaging to production agriculture.
- Has the ability to form dense stands, diminishing native plant habitat and their associated wildlife.
- It is one of the invasive species impacting the threatened species, Spalding's catchfly.
- The plants wiry stems and the latex it produces can clog and break agricultural harvesting equipment.

Description

- Biennial or perennial that can reach 4 feet tall.
- Rosettes produce flowering stems and withers as the stems mature. Rosette leaves resemble those of dandelions.
- Lower portion of stems have reddish, bristly, down-turned hairs, and upper portion lacks hair.
- Stems and leaves both exude a milky latex when cut.
- Bright yellow, daisy-like flowers are scattered on branches.
- Pale to dark-brown, ribbed achenes have pappus of white toothed bristles.

Introduction and Movement

- Rush skeletonweed is native to parts of Western Europe, north Africa and central Asia and was accidentally introduced as a seed contaminant.
- Inhabits disturbed areas such as rangeland, cultivated sites, and burn areas, and prefers well-drained, coarse soils.
- It can easily spread by fragmentation or seed dispersal via wind, water, and human/animal vectors.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Rush skeletonweed and eradicate infestations on your property.
- Always remove and properly dispose of all seed and plant materials on vehicles, clothing, shoes and pets before you exit or enter outdoor recreational sites.
- Always Remember To: **KNOCK IT OFF!**

Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/110385>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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