RUSH SKELETONWEED (*Chondrilla juncea)*

Family: Asteraceae (Aster)	Life Cycle: Perennial
Class: B - Control Required	AKA: Gum surrocy, nakedweed

Spokane County Noxious Weed Control Board · www.SpokaneCounty.org/WeedBoard
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RUSH SKELETONWEED

- Taproot may grow seven feet deep
- Stems and leaves exude milky latex sap
- One plant may produce 20,000 seeds
- Native to Europe, Asia and northern Africa

CONTROL METHODS

Mechanical: Hand-pulling may work for small, young infestations. Monitor for new shoots regularly. Mowing will reduce seed production but will not kill plants. Tilling is NOT recommended; broken roots will send up new growth and scattered root fragments with shoot buds will spread infestation.

Cultural: Promoting healthy plant communities and reducing soil disturbance can help prevent invasions. Typically does not invade healthy native plant communities.

Biological: While several biological control agents have been used, they have not yet proven effective in Spokane County. A gall midge, gall mite and rust fungus are used in Washington.

Chemical*: Most effective when treated in rosette stage. Mature plants have very little surface area for spray to adhere to. See table below for recommendations.

DESCRIPTION

Growth Traits: Perennial plant may grow up to five feet tall. Begins as a basal rosette, much like a dandelion, then grows stick-like, nearly leafless, branching stems. Many small yellow flowers.

Leaves and Stems: Basal rosette looks similar to a dandelion rosette. Leaves of rosette have lobes which point back to the leaf base. Leaves on branching stems few, narrow and may have smooth edges. Stem bases covered in downward pointing brown hairs, hairless towards tips. Stems are highly branched. Leaves a highly visible 'skeleton' of dead gray stems.

Flowers: Small bright yellow flowers which grow on leaf axils and stem tips. Flowers may be single or in clusters. 'Petals' (ray flower) are toothed at the end. Flowers are self-fertile, ensuring seed production.

Roots and Reproduction: Slender taproot can grow seven feet deep. When cut, roots can send up new growth from deep in the soil. Plants spread by seed, shoot buds on lateral roots, shoot buds on main root, and root fragments. One plant can produce 1,500 to 20,000 seeds. Seeds have a plume-like pappus that aids in wind dispersal.

Habitat: Prefers well-drained sandy to rocky soils. Invades irrigated and non-irrigated cropland, pastures, rangeland, roadsides and open disturbed areas.

Toxicity: Not known to be toxic.

***ALWAYS read herbicide labels and follow instructions for use and PPE.** The use of a surfactant (aka sticker) increases the efficacy of herbicide application, saving you time and money. If treating over multiple seasons, rotate using herbicides with different modes of action to reduce likelihood of herbicide resistance developing. Below are recommended herbicides based on stage of growth and time of year. All recommendations are supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Noxious Weed Board is implied. Trade names are used to simplify recommendations.

NOTE: There is no 'magic bullet' in noxious weed control, and control efforts must be repeated every season to stop their spread. Using a combination of methods (e.g. cultural and chemical) will lead to better control over time.

April - May Rosette, Seedling Stage	**June - July** Bolting, Bud, Bloom Stage	**August - October** Seeding, Fall Rosette Stage
2,4-D	Tordon + 2,4-D	Tordon + 2,4-D
WeedMaster	Milestone	***Fall rosettes:***
Prescott	Method + Telar	2,4-D
MCPA		Transline
Milestone		Milestone