Colorado List A

Perennial or biennial

Rush skeletonweed

Asteraceae

Chondrilla juncea

Rush skeletonweed is a thin spindly plant that has been found in Weld County but has infested only a few sites in Colorado.

Origin: Europe, Asia, and North Africa

Description: Robust forb 1 to 4 feet tall with generally leafless, wiry skeleton-like stems

Color: Green stems with numerous yellow flowers

Roots: Deep taproot to 7 feet. Adventitious buds near the top of the taproot and on major lateral roots can generate new rosettes. Roots are easily fragmented and pieces up 0.5 to 1 inch can produce new rosettes from a depth to 3 feet

Stems: 1 to 20 from the root crown. Wiry and smooth above with downward facing reddish hairs at the base. Contain a milky latex when broken

Leaves: Green lance-shaped or lobed hairless basal rosette leaves in Spring and Fall. Rosettes are dandelion-like, 2 to 5 inches long and ½ to 2 inches wide. Stem leaves are small, narrow, sharply toothed and very inconspicuous

Flowers: Yellow small dandelion-like rectangular ray florets scattered on branches and less than 1 inch in diameter and self -fertilizing. Appear from mid-July thru killing frost in fall or winter

Seeds: A mature plant can produce up to 1,500 flowers capable of distributing up to 20,000 seeds. Each seed is smooth and pale brown or black with tiny scaly projections above, terminated by a long beak with tufted soft white bristles for wind dispersal

Viability: 1 to 3 years

Toxicity: Not known to be toxic. Wiry stems might cause injury if ingested

Lookalikes: Skeletonweed *(Lygodesmia juncea*)

Rush skeletonweed grows best on well-drained, sandy or gravelly soils but tolearates a wide variety of environmental conditions. Prevention is the best control.

On the backside of this sheet are rush skeletonweed management recommendations.

If you have any questions, please contact the Weld County Public Works Dept., Weed Division at (970) 400-3770 or visit https://www.weldweeds.org

Recommended range and pasture management methods:

Cultural Establishment of selected, aggressive grasses may be an effective cultural control. Contact your local CSU Extension office or Natural Resources Conservation Service office (NRCS) for seed mix recommendations.

Mechanical Hand pulling or digging when the soil is moist is possible with very small infestations. New plants can arise from root fragments. Proper disposal of specimens is imperative if the plants are removed after flowering or seed set.

Mowing and cultivation are **NOT** effective control measures.

Biological Eradication is the objective of all List A species, no biological control is available.

Herbicides The following recommendations can be applied to range and pasturelands. The best treatment window is the Fall rosette stage followed by the Spring rosette stage.

Herbicide	Rate	Application Timing	Comments
Milestone (aminopyralid)	7 oz/acre OR 0.35 oz/gal water	Apply at rosette growth stage in Fall or Spring to early Summer.	Add a methylated seed oil surfactant @ 0.32 oz/gal water or 1 qt/100 gal water.
Forefront HL (aminopyralid + 2,4-D)	1.5 to 2.1 pt/acre	Apply at rosette growth stage in Fall or Spring to early Summer.	Add a methylated seed oil surfactant @ 0.32 oz/gal water or 1 qt/100 gal water.
Opensight (aminopyralid + metsulfuron)	2.5 to 3 oz/acre	Apply at rosette growth stage in Fall or Spring to early Summer.	Add a methylated seed oil surfactant @ 0.32 oz/gal water or 1 qt/100 gal water.
Capstone (aminopyralid + triclopyr	4 to 6 pt/acre	Apply at rosette growth stage in Fall or Spring to early Summer.	Add a methylated seed oil surfactant @ 0.32 oz/gal water or 1 qt/100 gal water.
Curtail (clopyralid + 2,4-D)	0.67 to 1 pt/acre	Postemergence to rosettes in fall, or up to bolting in spring	Add a methylated seed oil surfactant @ 0.32 oz/gal water or 1 qt/100 gal water. Shorter soil residual activity.
Tordon 22K (picloram) Restricted Use Pesticide	32 to 64 oz/acre	Postemergence to rosettes in fall or in spring	Add a methylated seed oil surfactant @ 0.32 oz/gal water or 1 qt/100 gal water. Long soil residual activity. Higher rate will injure grasses.

ALWAYS READ, UNDERSTAND, AND FOLLOW HERBICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS

The herbicide label is the LAW

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