

Chondrilla juncea

Rush Skeletonweed

Other common names:
Skeletonweed, devil's grass

Asteraceae, the sunflower family
Category: CONTAINMENT



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Perennial; grows rigid and wiry stems up to 4 feet tall
- Rosettes look very similar to dandelion and chicory
- Rosette produces 1 or more flowering stems; rosette withers as the flower stem matures
- Lower portion of stems (bottom 4-6 inches) typically have reddish, bristly, down-turned hairs
- Upper stems are typically non-hairy
- Stem leaves are not noticeable
- Stems and leaves both exude a milky latex when cut
- Flowers are bright yellow, strap-shaped and are scattered on branches

Background

- Native to Eurasia; introduced in contaminated seed shipments
- Inhabits rangelands, semi-arid pastures, non-crop areas, and rights-of-way
- Reproduces primarily by seed (airborne like dandelion seeds), however, cultivation can spread root fragments
- Soil disturbance and fire aids in establishment

Photo Credit:

J.M DiTomaso, Regents of the University of California

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