

Western Goat's Beard (*Tragonpogon dubius*)

WG TRAG DUB

Taprooted biennial to short-lived perennial growing 0.3 to 1 metre high. Also known as Western Salsify and Yellow Salsify.



Distribution

Extensive distribution in the Southern Interior.

Interesting Facts:

Yellow flower heads close by mid-afternoon and remain closed on cloudy days.



Quick ID

Has a yellow flower head that produces many plumed seeds.

Has a distinct swelling below the flower head.

When flowers are fully opened the floral bracts extend beyond the yellow flowers.

If any portion of the plant is damaged it will exude a milky juice.



Manual Treatment: Seed heads can be cut and removed to eliminate seed production. Rosettes can also be removed mechanically. This can be an effective control method for relatively small infestations. This must be repeated annually to exhaust the soil seed bank. Goat's-beard does not tolerate tillage well¹.



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Flowers: Occur singly at the ends of the flowering stems. Flowers are yellow, approximately 2 to 4 cm in length. Bracts occur at the base of the flowers and these are generally longer than the flowers themselves and somewhat pointed. Yellow flower heads close by mid-afternoon and remain closed on cloudy days.



Leaves and Stems: Mature leaves are approximately 30 cm long and 2 mm wide, linear in outline, and resemble the leaves of grasses but are generally thicker. Leaves may have a few long hairs near their bases. The leaf bases are wider than the apex, and leaf bases clasp the stem. Leaves emit a milky sap when cut.

Seeds: Has a large globed shaped seed head with parachute-like plumes on each seed. Seed head occurs in a round, 'puff-ball.' Each achene has a feathery pappus that facilitates wind dispersal of the seed. Seed heads are approximately 7.5 to 10 cm in diameter.



Roots: A taproot that emits a milky sap when broken

Habitat Preference: Likes disturbed areas.