



# DANDELION

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Taraxacum officinale*

**WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?** A short-lived perennial plant that has a deep, thick tap root that can grow up to 3 feet long. The leaves have jagged edges and hollow, leafless stems ending in a single yellow flower head. All plant parts show a milky white juice if cut.

**WHERE DOES IT LIKE TO GROW?** Dandelions are common in lawns, pastures, roadsides, abandoned or unmanaged property. This plant will grow just about anywhere.

**WHEN DOES IT BLOOM?** Flowers can develop anytime between March and November. Flowers are quickly followed by

fluffy white seed heads.

**HOW DOES IT SPREAD?** New plants come from the root and root segments. Each plant can produce up to 20,000 viable seeds. Each seed has a feathery parachute of soft white hairs that makes it easy to be carried by the wind.

**HOW DO I CONTROL IT?** Nothing you can do will totally and permanently get rid of dandelion problems. Do not neglect lawns and pastures. Good deep watering and soil care practices can help your grass to develop a deep, healthy root system that can compete well with weeds.



## NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- Dandelion can be dug out, but it is very important to remove the entire taproot if possible, as new plants can sprout from root pieces. Pulling is not recommended.
- Mowing will help reduce flowering and seed set, but dandelion flower heads overcome frequent mowing by opening on very short stalks.
- Keep your mower blade set high to encourage grasses to develop a stronger, deeper root system.

## CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- There are a number of good products on the market to help control dandelions. Be certain you **read all the label instructions and follow them carefully.**

Want more information? Contact:

**Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control**

**10905 N. Ramsey Road**

**Hayden, ID 83835**

**208-446-1290 / TTY 208-446-2145**

**kcnoxiousweeds@kcgov.us or [www.kcweeds.com](http://www.kcweeds.com)**

*Kootenai County does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in, its public meetings, programs, or activities. Requests for assistance or accommodations can be arranged by contacting the Noxious Weed Control Department at (208) 446-1290 or County Administration Office TTY (208)446-2145 with 3 days advance notice.*