

Western salsify

Tragopogon dubius

Sunflower Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Plants grow erect, 1-3' tall & have a long taproot
- ❑ Leaves are up to 12" long and are narrow
- ❑ Plants contain a milky juice
- ❑ Flowers are lemon-yellow ray flowers
- ❑ Each stalk is swollen just beneath the flower head
- ❑ Seed heads look like huge dandelions

Biology and ecology

- A biennial plant spreading by seeds
- A plant commonly growing in waste areas and along road sides
- This plant is from Eurasia and is now established over much of North America
- It is not usually an aggressive plant in our county
- There are two other similar species: meadow salsify which is not swollen beneath the flower and common salsify which has purple flowers

Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; start monitoring early in the season

Biological - No known biological control here

Cultural - Plant competitive grass or other cover crop

Mechanical - Does not tolerate tillage and will pull up fairly easily

Chemical - the [PNW Weed Management handbook](#) lists clopyralid + 2,4-D & chlorsulfuron + metsulfuron as being good for control of salsify

Where found – Scattered areas of plants all through Stevens County but no dense populations are known to be present



Middle and bottom photos courtesy Mike Haddock,
<http://www.lib.ksu.edu/wildflower/>