



## MSU Fall Pesticide Recertification Trainings



### **2024 Pest Management Tour**

The annual Pest Management Tour is a last chance opportunity for private applicators in [PAT District 2 \(southwest Montana\)](#) to obtain recertification credits before the December 31, 2024 license expiration date. Three credits will be offered for each session (AM or PM) at each location. Attendees may attend both sessions to accumulate six recertification credits.

The MSU Pesticide Education Program in cooperation with the MSU Integrated Pest Management Program and county agents are pleased to offer this multi-disciplined pest management opportunity covering a variety of pest management topics. Dates and locations are:

- October 15<sup>th</sup> in Dillon and Deer Lodge
- October 16<sup>th</sup> in Helena and Townsend
- October 17<sup>th</sup> in Whitehall and Ennis
- October 18<sup>th</sup> in Clyde Park and Bozeman

Registration and agenda information can be found at the [Events Page](#). For more information about these events please contact Amy Bowser (406-994-5178), [amy.bowser@montana.edu](mailto:amy.bowser@montana.edu) or Cecil Tharp (406-994-5067), [ctharp@montana.edu](mailto:ctharp@montana.edu).

### **2024 Webinar Series**

The MSU Pesticide Education Webinar Series offers one-hour presentations on pesticide and pest management related topics for applicators across the state of Montana. Each webinar is worth one private applicator credit (commercial credits are posted online) and is free to attend. Navigate to [2025 Webinar Series \[montana.edu\]](#) for registration details and how to view event.

- October 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 10:00 AM. Pesticides and Pollinators. Shelly Mills, MSU Valley County Extension Agent
- November 7<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 – 1:00 PM. The Montana Biocontrol Weed Project. Melissa Maggio, Montana Biocontrol Project Coordinator
- November 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM. Managing Noxious Weeds near Water. Dr. Jane Mangold, MSU Extension Rangeland Specialist
- December 5<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. An Introduction to Pesticide Formulations. Dr. Cecil Tharp, MSU Pesticide Education Specialist
- December 19<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 – 1:00 PM. Developing a Pest Management Plan for Vertebrate Pests. Stephen Vantassel, MDA Vertebrate Pest Specialist

## MDA 2024 Fall Pesticide Recertification Trainings



Below is a list of Montana Department of Agriculture in-person fall recertification trainings offered with the date, location, and potential credits to earn at each training. Please review specific trainings agenda and available credits at each training location prior to signing up.

<b>October 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Kalispell	up to 6 credits
<b>October 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Missoula	up to 6 credits
<b>October 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Billings	up to 6 credits
<b>October 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Glendive	up to 4 credits
<b>October 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Glasgow	up to 4 credits
<b>October 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Havre	up to 4 credits
<b>October 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Belgrade	up to 4 credits
<b>December 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Helena	up to 4 credits

To review the trainings, click [HERE](#) and scroll down to the heading, “MDA Recertification Training – In Person.”

Or Scan the QR code below



# DEQ Pesticide General Permit

By Hannah New, MPDES Permit Writer

## **Are you planning to apply pesticides to, over, or near state surface waters? If so, be sure to keep in mind state permitting requirements!**

Anyone who applies pesticides to, over, or near state surface waters (such that pesticide unavoidably enters a state surface water) must obtain permit coverage under the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Pesticide General Permit. Any pesticide application to state surface waters in any amount requires permit coverage.

### ***Applying for Permit Coverage***

To request coverage for a new project, submit a complete application package to DEQ at least 30 days prior to operation. A complete application package consists of:

- ⦿ Pesticide Application form, submitted via DEQ's online permitting system (FACTS): <https://svc.mt.gov/deq/factspermitting>  
For FACTS assistance, contact Gina Self at (406) 444-5388 or [gself@mt.gov](mailto:gself@mt.gov)
- ⦿ New application fee (see table below)

Once authorized, your authorization to discharge under the 2021 General Permit is effective until the expiration of the 2021 General Permit (on October 31, 2026) or until you submit a request to terminate coverage.

The application fee for a new authorization includes the first-year annual fee. Subsequent annual fees are half the initial application fee and are owed for each calendar year you have effective permit coverage. To avoid the accrual of inappropriate annual fees, request to terminate coverage once the application of pesticides has been completed.

	<u>Tier I</u>	<u>Tier II</u>
<b>Single – county</b>	\$50	\$500
<b>Multi – county</b>	\$100	\$1200

### ***Permit Requirements***

Permitting requirements for all owners/operators consist of effluent limits, monitoring, and recordkeeping requirements. Additional Tier II requirements will apply if the total annual treatment area exceeds the annual thresholds specified in the permit or if the proposed discharge is into waterbodies classified as A-Closed or Outstanding Resource Waters. Additional requirements for Tier II owner/operators include the submission of annual report forms and development of a Pesticide Discharge Management Plan (PDMP).

### ***Resources and Contact Information***

By obtaining permit coverage, you can help protect Montana's waters and ensure you're complying with state and federal regulations.

More information regarding eligibility, discharge limits, monitoring requirements, and other conditions can be found on DEQ's website at: <https://deq.mt.gov/water/assistance> > Surface Water General Permits (MPDES) > Pesticides – MTG870000 > Pesticides General Permit (Effective 2021)

For any questions, please contact Hannah New (MPDES Permit Writer) at [hannah.new@mt.gov](mailto:hannah.new@mt.gov) or (406) 444-3441.

## Plant Identification – Using Smartphone Apps

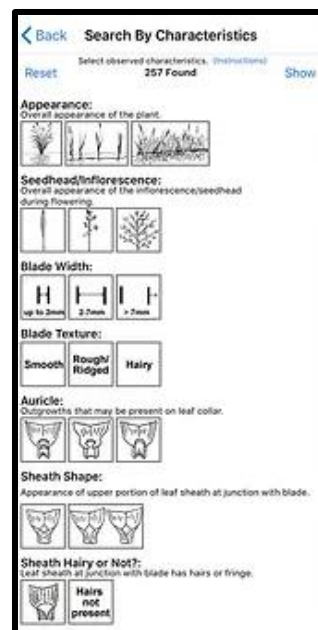
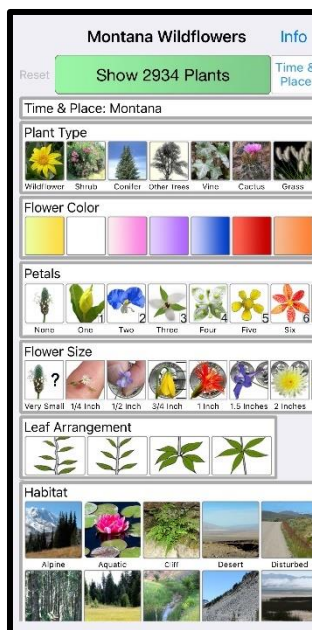
Source: Noelle Orloff, Schutter Lab Diagnostician and Extension Associate Specialist

Using plant ID apps on your smartphone can be a useful tool. These apps function in two ways:

### 1. Traditional Key

The user enters information/characteristics about the plant (illustrated in images to the right) and then the app lists plants that meet the criteria. Two such apps are listed below:

- a. **Wildflowers of Montana** includes 2,934 plants found in Montana including wildflowers, broadleaf trees, conifers, cactus, grass-like, moss-like, fern-like and lichen. Cost - FREE
- b. **Montana Grasses** is a guide to 280 grasses, sedges, and rushes which inhabit cropland, pasture, and range in Montana and the west. Cost is \$4.99.



### 2. Artificial Intelligence Technology apps

The user takes a photo with their phone and the app identifies the plants using image recognition. Here are two recommended apps:

- a. **Picture This**  
Allows you to take a photo or search by a plant's name and contains over 12000+ plants, flowers, succulents, and trees. Description of the plants in the app include interesting facts, scientific classification, symbolism, and more. Cost is FREE for a few credits with ads and commercials, or the user can pay \$49.99 annually.
- b. **Plant Net**  
Allows you to search a database containing 45 floras and 46,050 species. Plants are searchable by theme (invasive plants, useful plants, weeds, and world flora) or by geographical flora map (plants found in Africa, Asia, Central America, Europe, North America, and Oceania-Pacific), or by a photo of their leaf, flower, fruit or bark.

### 3. Tips for Using Plant ID apps

Use some critical thinking when using these apps and double check your identification with a trusted resource. The [Montana Field Guide](#) has many accurate photos of Montana plants online and can confirm if your plant is known to occur in Montana or not. Another terrific resource to help you identify the plant is your local extension office or your county weed district.

## MDA Pesticide Container Recycling

The Pesticide Container Recycling Program was created to keep pesticide container plastic out of Montana's landfills. Emptied and cleaned plastic containers can be brought into a collection day, where our recycling technician with the truck equipped with shredding equipment and poly transport bags is stationed to collect the containers. Click [HERE](#) for the Pesticide Container Recycling 2024 Calendar and information about what and how to prepare containers to recycle.

## MDA Pesticide Waste Disposal Program

Annual pesticide waste disposal events began in 1994. More than 796,000 pounds of pesticide waste have been collected from more than 1,871 participants. Common pesticides that have been brought to collection events include DDT, pentachlorophenol, dinoseb, and strychnine. To participate in the Montana Waste Pesticide Disposal Program, you please pre-register by clicking [HERE](#). For the location and dates of the 2024 disposal events click [HERE](#).

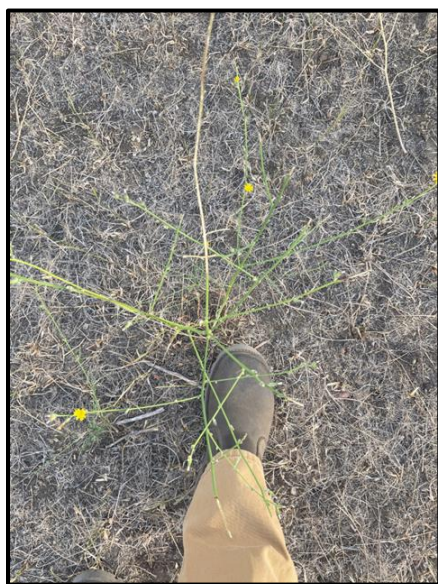
# EDRR Roundup: Rush Skeletonweed, Aiming for a Montana Success Story

By Josh Wagoner, Early Detection, Rapid Response Coordinator

Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*) is a Montana Priority 1B Noxious Weed, meaning it has a limited presence in the state, and if found, eradication or containment and education are required. It was first detected in Montana in 1987, but due to diligent management efforts, it has been kept on the west side of the Continental Divide since then, even though there are currently an estimated 6.2 million acres of rush skeletonweed threatening us from other western U.S. states, including 4 million acres in Idaho. As of 2023, Montana had less than 4,000 acres of this difficult noxious weed, primarily in Lincoln, Sanders, Lake, and Ravalli counties, along with small populations in Mineral and Missoula counties, and the occasional plant in Flathead and Beaverhead counties. Weed managers considered this a big success story.

Late last summer, a one-acre, well-established patch of rush skeletonweed was found on dry rangeland in the hills west of Helena, east of the Continental Divide. A week later, a one hundred square foot patch was found east of East Helena in old fallow cropland. These new patches were a surprise and cause for real concern, but thanks to immediate aggressive action and treatment, no plants have been found at either site this summer, although these locations will require years of monitoring going forward. This can at least be considered a semi-success story, and with the help of Montanans who work and recreate on the land, we can keep on a winning track with rush skeletonweed.

You can pitch in by keeping your eyes open when you're out and about. Rush skeletonweed is branched with few or no leaves, giving it a "skeleton-like" appearance. The rosettes look identical to dandelions, but once bolted rush skeletonweed stems have stiff downward pointing hairs at the base. Flowers are yellow, smaller than a dime, appear in late summer, and when seeded, have tufted white hairs that disperse in the wind. All plant parts exude a milky latex when broken. Rush skeletonweed can invade rangeland, farmland, roadsides and even neighborhood yards. It can thrive in the driest or wettest parts of Montana but is often found on degraded sites with unhealthy plant communities. It can easily be confused with tumble mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), which has small four-petaled pale yellow flowers, and the native rush skeleton-plant (*Lygodesmia juncea*), which has no hairs at the stem base, does not contain milky sap, and has pinkish flowers. Prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*) also looks similar in some ways, but it has more and larger leaves along the stem.



**Rush skeletonweed plant**



**Rush skeletonweed rosette**



**Rushskeletonweed flower**

Rush Skeletonweed is difficult to control and harmful to both agriculture and wildland habitat. Yield losses can be as high as 70-80% in wheat. It is an extremely strong competitor for moisture and other soil resources. Pulling and cultivation are not management options, both only encourage rush skeletonweed to spread, and due to the extensive root systems and few leaves, herbicide uptake is limited, and applications must be continued repeatedly. It is critical to keep this nasty invader from establishing in new areas of Montana and to eradicate new infestations when found. To report a suspected Rush skeletonweed plant, submit a report on EDDMapS and contact your local county weed coordinator or the Montana Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed EDRR Program at [MTEDRR@mt.gov](mailto:MTEDRR@mt.gov). Montana Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed Trust Fund supports four counties with Rush Skeletonweed Task Forces, so if the plant is found, help is available. For additional resources and contact information, visit the Early Detection, Rapid Response webpage by clicking [HERE](#).

## Fall Webinar- Free

On **Tuesday, December 3rd**, at 12:00 PM, MST, you are invited to participate in a **FREE** webinar titled, *“Balancing Pollinator Conservation with Pesticide Application using IPM.”* If you are interested, please email Beth Thomas and she will sign you up! (beth.thomas@mt.gov)

## MDA Pesticide Training Staff Contacts

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