



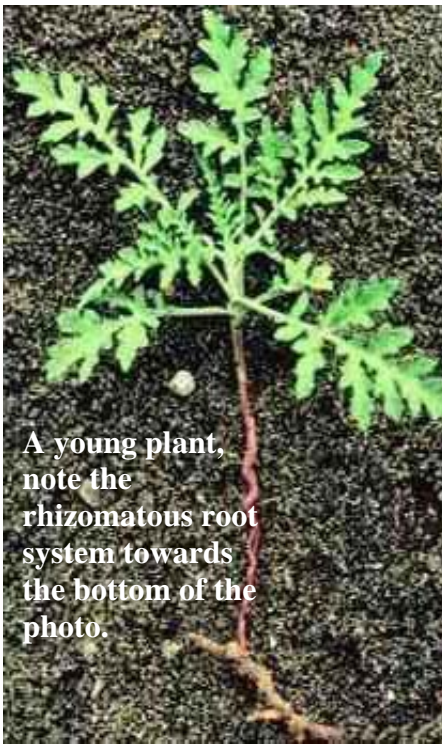
TETON COUNTY WEED AND PEST DISTRICT

Skeletonleaf bursage *Ambrosia tomentosa*



An adult plant

Skeletonleaf bursage is a creeping root perennial that grows from 4-18 inches tall. The entire plant has a grayish appearance and the leaves are deeply lobed and toothed. The flowers are inconspicuous and yellow; they produce a burred seed with spikes. This plant is a native to the great plains of North America and is one of the only continental native species on the state's declared list.



A young plant, note the rhizomatous root system towards the bottom of the photo.

Interestingly enough, this plant belongs to the ragweed tribe of the sunflower family. The ragweed's are known to be very prolific pollen producers and a major irritant to people with allergies. This occurs because these plants rely on the wind to pollinate for them rather than insects.

Although this plant has yet to be found in Teton County, it still can be seen as a concern because of it's ability to invade dry, well drained sites. The seed it produces is also an annoyance, often attaching itself to passerbys. The seed also has the potential of becoming a contaminant to wool producers. This plant may also be associated with hay fever and a concern for people with allergies.

If you find this plant or think you have found a plant please contact Teton County Weed & Pest District for help in controlling this species.



'Spiked' Seeds

Steve Hurst © USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

5 mm

Drawing at right:
USDA-NRCS
PLANTS
Database /
Britton, N.L.,
and A. Brown.
1913. *Illustrated
flora of the
northern states
and Canada*. Vol.
3: 343.

