



Wall Hawkweed

Hieracium murorum L.



Overview:

Wall hawkweed is a member of the Aster Family and native to Europe. It is a fibrous rooted, perennial herb with milky latex in the stems and leaves. Wall hawkweed reproduces by seed, and short, stout rhizomes.² It lacks stolons.¹ Seeds are produced by apomixis - asexually - as non-native hawkweeds are polyploids (n=9), as opposed to the native diploid hawkweeds. Occasional sexual reproduction occurs, facilitating out-crossing and hybridization.¹

Hawkweeds develop a low rosette of basal leaves before producing a flowering stem. Dandelion-like flowers are borne at the ends of stems and when mature produce a dandelion-like puffball of seeds which are wind dispersed.

Non-native hawkweeds exhibit many characteristics of an invasive plant: high seed production and germination rates, asexual seed production, wind-dispersed seed, vegetative reproduction via rhizomes, stolons, and root fragments, and rapid growth.¹ A few invasive hawkweed species are popular ornamentals. All of these characteristics facilitate rapid colonization and monopolizing of resources. An undetected patch of hawkweed has great potential to become an un-eradicable infestation.

Habitat:

Hawkweeds prefer well drained, coarse textured soils, moderately low in organic matter, in mesic habitats.¹

Identification:

Stems: Plant stem bases can be woody, are erect and usually solitary, and sparsely hairy

with bristly or stellate hairs.² Plants grow 20-80 cm tall.¹

Leaves: Basal leaves are well developed and persistent.² Leaves are nearly entire or slightly toothed. Basal leaves are broadly elliptical, cordate, or truncate at the base and do not taper to the petiole.¹ Leaves are 2-13 cm long, 1.5-5.5 cm wide. Petioles have long, soft hairs.² Leaves are hairless or with simple hairs on upper surface and stellate hairs below. Stem leaves are absent or with 1-2 leaves near the base.¹

Flowers: Flat or round-topped² clusters of 4-15 florets with strap-shaped yellow petals occur at the ends of stems.¹ The flower stalks bear glandular or non-glandular, stellate hairs. The involucre is 8-12 mm tall, the bracts linear to linear-lanceolate and coarsely hairy with gland-tipped and often stellate hairs.² Fruits are achenes 2 mm long with a pappus.²

Prevention:

Learning to recognize hawkweeds from the many yellow-flowered members of the Aster Family is the key to prevention. Hairs are an important characteristic of non-native hawkweeds and also in distinguishing between species. Long term management of hawkweeds requires maintaining healthy forbs and grasses - fertilization of desirable vegetation can result in out-competition of hawkweeds. Re-seed disturbance in areas susceptible to hawkweed invasion.

Control:

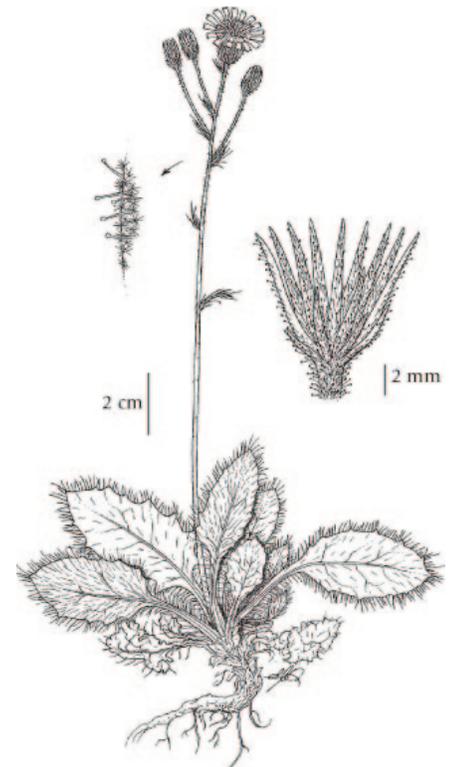
Grazing: Unknown. Invasive plants should never be considered as forage.

Mechanical: Mowing before flowering will

prevent seed production of taller plants but will not prevent reproduction via rhizomes. Hand digging of small infestations may be effective, taking care to remove all root and rhizome pieces.

Chemical: Hexazinone, 2,4-D, and glyphosate are registered for use on *Hieracium* spp./hawkweeds. Always check product labels to ensure the herbicide is registered for use on the target plant in Canada by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. Consult your local Agricultural Fieldman or Certified Pesticide Dispenser for more information.

Biological: None researched to date specifically for *Hieracium murorum*.



REFERENCES

- 1 Wilson, Linda. Key to Identification of Invasive and Native Hawkweeds in the Pacific Northwest. British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range, Forest Practices Branch, Invasive Alien Plant Program.
- 2 *Hieracium murorum*. The Illustrated Flora of British Columbia. <http://linnet.geog.ubc.ca/Atlas/Atlas.aspx?sciname=Hieracium%20murorum>. Accessed August 6, 2014.