Tall Hawkweed

Hieracium piloselloides

Common name: Tall Hawkweed (King Devil)
Scientific name: *Hieracium piloselloides*
Family: Asteraceae

Photo: Marc Schuffert

Description:

Tall Hawkweed is a perennial plant with erect stems up to 1 m tall. Stems exude a white milky sap when broken. Leaves have long hairs on the margins and midveins only; leaves are concentrated in a basal rosette (occasionally with one or two smaller leaves on the stems). The yellow dandelion-like flower heads are clustered, each head approximately 1 cm in width. Tall Hawkweed is considered a noxious weed in the United States. It is found through much of British Columbia; also reported in Alberta and Alaska.

Range in Yukon

Tall Hawkweed is currently known from the Morley and Rancheria areas.

Similar Species

Flowers can look similar to Narrowleaf Hawksbeard (*Crepis tectorum*), Umbellate Hawkweed (*Hieracium umbellatum*), Perennial Sow Thistle (*Sonchus arvensis*). When not flowering, the basal rosettes of leaves can look similar to Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*).

Ecological impact

A very adaptable species, Tall Hawkweed can grow in a wide range of habitats. It spreads using rhizomes, adventitious roots and seed. Though usually found on disturbed sites, it has been documented in undisturbed natural ecosystems. Its impacts on native plant communities are not well understood at this time.

Control

Control of tall hawkweed is complicated by the presence of rhizomes and adventitious root (i.e. vegetative regeneration) that may sprout following control treatments. Mowing will not prevent vegetative spread of plants. When populations are small, hand digging is best to prevent spread. Research on the effectiveness of chemical and biological control are lacking, though treatments used on other species of hawkweeds may prove useful. Elimination or management of hawkweeds requires a multi-year program that integrates control methods with restoration techniques. Efforts should be made to increase the competitive ability of desired native species.

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