

Yellow Hawkweed Spp. (*Hieracium spp.*)

HS HIER SPP

Perennial with a creeping growth form ranging from 30 cm to 1 metre tall.
Species are difficult to distinguish from one another because they interbreed.
Introduced from Europe as garden ornamentals and medicinal herbs.



Distribution

Common in the
Southern Interior.

**Limited in the Clinton and Nicola
Regions.**

“Look-Alike” Species

There are many native hawkweeds in this ecosystem with yellow or white flowers, but native hawkweeds lack above ground runners, usually have leafy branched stems, and have flowers arising from stalks that are attached to the stem at the same point.



Quick ID

Clusters of yellow flowers at top of stem.

Exudes a milky latex juice when broken.

Short, stiff hairs on stem; hairy leaves only at base.

Above ground runners.

Interesting Facts:

Similar to Orange hawkweed but have yellow instead of orange flowers.

Grazed by sheep and goats.

Manual Treatment: In small infestations, hand pull entire plant (including stolons), cut below ground, or cut flower seed head. Mowing prevents seed production but encourages spread by stolons.



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Flowers: Crowded terminal clusters (5 to 30 flower heads) of dandelion-like, yellow flowers. Petals have notched tips.

Leaves and Stems: Entire, hairy leaves in a rosette at the base of the plant. Leaves are narrow and club-shaped; darker green on topside of leaf and lighter green underneath. Stems leafless (or with 1 to 3 small clasping leaves below midpoint of stem) with short, stiff hairs. One rosette can produce 10-25 flowering stems.



Seeds: Tiny black seeds with tawny-white plumes attached on the flattened end. Microscopic barbs easily attach to a passersby. Seeds are viable for up to seven years.

Roots: Shallow fibrous roots with a woody stem base.

Reproduction and Dispersal: By seed, roots, and rapidly spreading stolons (or above ground runners). Each plant can produce 4 to 12 leafy stolons, which also create a dense mat that impedes other vegetation.



Habitat Preference: Low to mid-elevations in disturbed areas, pastures, meadows, wetlands, roadsides, grasslands, forest clearings or openings, and lawns. Will not tolerate heavy shade.