

# YELLOW HAWKWEED

*Hieracium caespitosum*

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

Category: Control

Linda Wilson, University of Idaho, Bugwood.org

## FACTSHEET INFORMATION

### Summary of Invasiveness

- Yellow hawkweed is an invasive wildflower that can quickly infest an area due to its stolon, rhizome and adventitious root bud production, as well as its prolific seed production.
- It can displace desirable pasture plants, leading to loss of forage and biodiversity.

### Description

- Perennial growing up to 2 feet tall with fibrous roots, rhizomes, and stolons. Native hawkweed lack stolons.
- Basal rosette is hairy with yellowish-green leaves.
- Yellow, dandelion-like flowers form dense, open clusters on typically leafless stems; A small leaf will occasionally appear near the midpoint.
- Stems and flower bracts are covered with black hairs.
- Dark brown to black, ribbed seeds are tipped with white hairlike plumes.
- Milky latex is exuded when plant is cut or broken.

### Introduction and Movement

- Yellow hawkweed is native to Europe and was likely introduced to the U.S. as early as 1828, as a garden ornamental or contaminant of agricultural seed.
- Inhabits moist pastures, forest meadows, abandoned fields, clearings, and roadsides.
- Seeds can easily spread via wind, water, or by hitching a ride on vehicles or machinery. It continues to be available as an ornamental, allowing intentional introductions to occur.

### Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Yellow hawkweed and eradicate infestations on your property.
- When gardening, always research plants before planting and only purchase seeds from licensed nurseries.
- Always remove and properly dispose of all seed and plant materials on vehicles, clothing, shoes and pets before you exit or enter outdoor recreational sites.
- Always Remember To: **KNOW WHAT YOU GROW & KNOCK IT OFF!**

#### Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/27161>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



Robert L. Carr, Eastern Washington University



Tom Heutte, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



Robert L. Carr, Eastern Washington University

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: [INVASIVESPECIES.IDAHO.GOV](http://INVASIVESPECIES.IDAHO.GOV)  
TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES IN IDAHO, PLEASE CALL 1-877-336-8676.

# YELLOW HAWKWEED DISTRIBUTION MAP

