wall hawkweed

Hieracium murorum L.

Synonyms: *Hieracium hyparcticum* (Almquist) Elfstraud, *H. lividorubens* (Almquist) Zahn, *H. stelechodes* Omang, *H. lividorubens* var. *lividorubens* (Almquist) Elfstr., *H. lividorubens* var. *subnudulum* Dahlst.
Other common name(s): None
Family: Asteraceae

Invasiveness Rank: **Not Ranked -** The invasiveness rank is calculated based on a species' ecological impacts, biological attributes, distribution, and response to control measures. The ranks are scaled from 0 to 100, with 0 representing a plant that poses no threat to native ecosystems and 100 representing a plant that poses a major threat to native ecosystems.

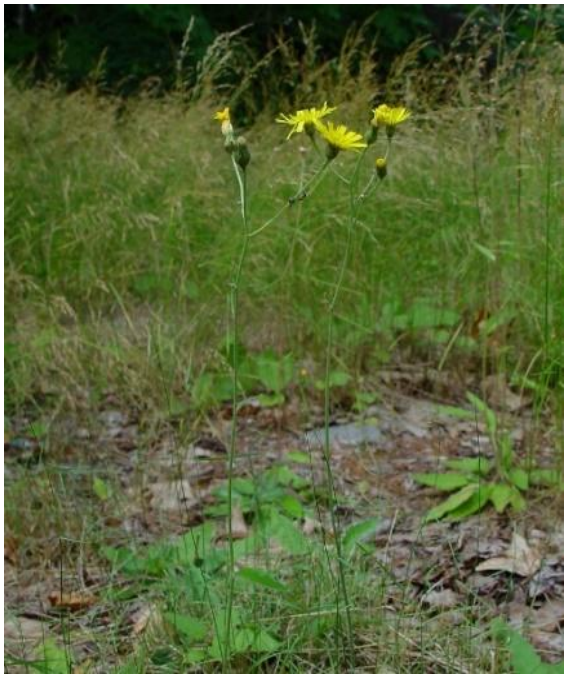

Figure 1 Wall hawkweed (Hieracium murorum). Photo by Arthur Haines.

Description

Wall hawkweed is a perennial forb that grows from 25 to 80 cm tall. Wall hawkweed has erect flowering stems with long, straight hairs near the base. Leaves are entire or slightly toothed with 3 to 6 basal leaves, and generally up to 3 stem leaves near the base if present at all. The Inflorescence is corymbiform with 5 to 8 or more flower heads. Peduncles are densely stellate-pubescent and stipitate-glandular. Involucres are bell or cone-shaped and 8 to 9 mm in length. Phyllaries are 18 to 21 or more in quantity, stellate-pubescent and stipitate glandular. There are generally 30 to 50 florets per flower head. Corollas are yellow and usually 12 to 13 mm long. Fruit is a ribbed achene that tapers toward the base. Pappi are tawny or white, 30 to 40 in quantity, and stramineous bristles in more or less 2 series, 4 to 5 mm long. (Strother 2020, Klinkenberg 2020, Wilson 2006).

Figure 2 Wall hawkweed in seed. Photo by Dean Taylor.

Similar Species: In Alaska, non-native species that resemble wall hawkweed include narrowleaf hawksbeard (*Crepis tectorum*), narrowleaf hawkweed (*Hieracium umbellatum*), meadow hawkweed (*H. caespitosum*), and mouse ear hawkweed (*H. pilosella)*. The stems in wall hawkweed and meadow hawkweed have few to no leaves unlike most other species in *Hieracium* genus.

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Wall hawkweed has ovate to elliptic-lanceolate leaves that grows 1.5 to 3 times the width, with sharply toothed leaf margins where meadow hawkweed has narrowly oblanceolate to oblong leaves that grow from 2 to 6 times the width with untoothed to shallowly toothed leaf margins. Meadow hawkweed also has stolons that are either obvious or short and inconspicuous. (Hultén 1968, Wilson 2006, Strother 2020)

Figure 3 Wall hawkweed (Hieracium murorum). Photo by Arthur Haines.

There are also several similar native hawkweed species (*Hieracium* spp*).*in Alaska. Woolly hawkweed (*H. triste*) and slender hawkweed (*H. gracile*), have dense, dark-colored glandular hairs surrounding the base of the flower head that are much more conspicuous than the hairs on wall hawkweed flower heads. Native hawkweed species have shallower, less frequently toothed or untoothed basal leaves and reduced stem leaves. (Hultén 1968, Wilson 2006, Strother 2020).

Ecological Impact

Impact on community composition, structure, and interactions: Wall hawkweed has not been reported in undisturbed areas in Alaska (AKEPIC, CPNWH 2025, Densmore et al. 2001). It has become naturalized throughout many parts of the world. Identified as a "sleeper weed", or "invasive plants that have naturalized in a region but not yet increased their population size exponentially" (Groves 1999). Wall hawkweed has been a species considered capable of causing serious economic damage in Australia. It is unpalatable to livestock, and potentially wild animals, and may displace palatable vegetation. Wall hawkweed may not have extreme competitiveness in native habitats of Alaska but has potential to compete with native species in open areas and reduce available forage to animals (Brinkley and Bomford 2002). Wall hawkweed is not stoloniferous, an attribute that has allowed other non-native hawkweeds to aggressively colonize the environments they invade (Strother 2020, Fornasari 1996).

Impact on ecosystem processes: Specific information on the impact of wall hawkweed on ecosystem processes is not present in the available literature.

Potential for long-distance dispersal: The possession of a pappus attached to the fruiting body suggests capability of long-distance dispersal via wind, water or animal dispersal (Eriksson 1992, Fornasari 1996).

Potential to be spread by human activity: Seeds of hawkweed species (*Hieracium* spp.) can be transported by vehicles, animals, and clothing.

Germination requirement: Specific information on wall hawkweed germination requirements is not available in found literature.

Growth requirements: Hawkweed species (*Hieracium* spp.) possess biological characteristics that have historically allowed success in harsh climates of the world such as those in northern latitudes (Eriksson 1992). Contributing to the success of hawkweed species is the ability to overcome drought

resistance and short growing seasons, which can be mostly attributed to their perennial habit. Hawkweed species are known for their ability to thrive in nearly all soil textures, and a wide range of altitude (Fornasari 1996).

Legal Listings

- Listed noxious by other states (WA)

Distribution and Abundance

Native and current distribution: Wall hawkweed is native to Eurasia. In North America it is found on roadsides, fields, openings in woods, thickets, and other disturbed areas (Strother 2020). It grows as a weed in several upper midwestern states and throughout the northeastern US. In Canada, it has been reported in BC, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland (USDA, NRCS 2017, Brouillet et al. 2010+). Currently known in Alaska in Southeast, the major populations have been reported on Wrangell, Zarembo, and Etolin islands (AKEPIC, CPNWH 2026). It has not been observed in undisturbed habitats in Alaska (Densmore et all. 2001, AKEPIC 2026, CPNWH 2026).For the most up-to-date distribution information for Alaska, please visit the AKEPIC Database.

Management

Mechanical methods are not known to effectively manage many hawkweed species. Tillage and selective herbicides can control hawkweed infestations (Fornasari 1996). Infestations should always be revisited after initial treatment to determine if retreatment is necessary.

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