

Alberta Invasive Hawkweeds

Hawkweeds are aggressive, invasive weeds. Invasive Hawkweeds can reproduce through seed, stolons (above ground stems) and rhizomes (below ground stems). Hawkweeds tend to exclude desirable perennial grasses and forbs by forming dense mats that can cover large areas.

The best hawkweed control is prevention.

Learn to identify your Hawkweeds to keep an infestation from becoming established.



To report sightings of any of these Hawkweeds call the **Alberta Pest Surveillance System 310-2777 (APSS)**

PLEASE REPORT EXACT LOCATION

Orange Hawkweed (present in Alberta)

Hieracium aurantiacum



HEIGHT: 15-60 cm

GROWTH HABIT: Perennial with stolons and rhizomes, once flowering has initiated

LEAVES: Mostly basal leaves with the odd stem leaf. Leaf much longer than wide, with widest point usually at middle. Leaf comes to a rounded point. Leaves moderately hairy.

FLOWER: 3-12 heads per stem. Orange, strap shaped petals with notches at end.

FOUND: Pastures, native rangeland, roadsides and disturbed areas. Commonly used as an ornamental.

Meadow Hawkweed (present in Alberta)

Hieracium caespitosum



HEIGHT: 20-75 cm

GROWTH HABIT: Perennial with stolons and rhizomes, once flowering has initiated

LEAVES: Mostly basal leaves with the odd stem leaf. Leaf much longer than wide, with widest point usually at middle. Leaf comes to a sharp point. Leaves very hairy.

FLOWER: 20-50 heads per stem. Yellow, strap shaped petals with notches at end.

FOUND: Pastures, native rangeland, roadsides and disturbed areas.

Mouse-ear Hawkweed

Hieracium pilosella



HEIGHT: 10-40 cm

GROWTH HABIT: Perennial with stolons and rhizomes, once flowering has initiated

LEAVES: Mostly basal leaves with the odd stem leaf. Leaf much longer than wide, with widest point usually at middle. Leaf comes to a rounded point. Leaves moderately hairy.

FLOWER: Solitary head per stem, rarely 2. Yellow, strap shaped petals with notches at end. Petals will often have red stripes on the underside.

FOUND: Pastures, native rangeland, roadsides and disturbed areas.

Tall Hawkweed*

Hieracium piloselloides

*Recently found in Alberta, but not currently part of the *Weed Control Act*



HEIGHT: 15-70 cm

GROWTH HABIT: Perennial with rhizomes, once flowering has initiated. Lacks stolons.

LEAVES: Mostly basal leaves with the odd stem leaf. Leaf much longer than wide, with widest point usually at middle. Leaf comes to a rounded point. Leaves almost entirely hairless, hairs only occur along leaf edge and the underside of mid vein.

FLOWER: 3-30 heads per stem. Yellow, strap shaped petals with notches at end.

FOUND: Pastures, native rangeland, roadsides and disturbed areas.

NATIVE HAWKWEEDS IN ALBERTA

Hairs, type, location and abundance, are key in identifying Hawkweeds. As a loose rule, natives usually don't form dense, uniform mats of plants. Best practices in confirming a hawkweed species is to take lots of digital images and consult with a local agfieldmen to confirm species. We want to locate the invasive species but not at the expense of the natives.

White Hawkweed

Hieracium albiflorum

Flowers are white, sparsely to moderately hairy

Western Hawkweed

Hieracium scouleri var. *albertinum*

Plants very densely and conspicuously long-hairy on leaves stems and heads

Houndstongue Hawkweed

Hieracium scouleri var. *cynoglossoides*

Plants densely hairy

Scouler's Hawkweed

Hieracium scouleri var. *scouleri*

Plants sparsely to moderately hairy

Alpine Hawkweed

Hieracium triste

Flower heads are usually covered with a mixture of longer silky-silvery hairs and shorter bristly-glandular black hairs. Found at higher elevations; montane, subalpine and alpine meadows.



To access more weed information, scan this code with your smartphone or visit www.agriculture.alberta.ca/weeds



To access the *Alberta Weed Control Act*, scan this code with your smartphone or visit www.agriculture.alberta.ca/weedcontrol-act

PHOTO CREDITS: Nicole Kimmel, Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development, Meadow Hawkweed Infestation & Meadow Hawkweed Flowers -Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., Bugwood.org



Government of Alberta

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Freedom To Create. Spirit To Achieve.