

Meadow Hawkweed (*Hieracium caespitosum*)

Description

Meadow hawkweed has clusters of many small, yellow dandelion-like flower heads on top of mostly leafless stems. The erect, bristly stems can grow up to 1 m tall, each topped by 5 to 30 bright yellow flower heads in a compact, flat-topped cluster. Each plant produces 10 to 30 flower stems. Flowers in bud are distinctively rounded and black-hairy in tight clusters at the tops of the stems. The leaves are long and narrow, up to six inches long, not lobed, somewhat hairy on both sides, and form a basal rosette. There are also usually one or two small leaves on the stem. The entire plant contains a milky juice. Meadow hawkweed has a shallow root system and underground creeping stems called rhizomes. New plants can arise from buds on the rhizomes and plants can develop several creeping stems (stolons) that are also capable of producing new plants.



Key Identifiers

- ✓ Yellow flowers, with square edges than are notched
- ✓ Leaves, stems and buds covered in bristly hairs
- ✓ At flowering produces rhizomes and/or stolons
- ✓ Milky sap

Location in Canada

All Canadian provinces are thought to have meadow hawkweed, BC east to Nfld. Populations are being reported in Clearwater, Wetaskiwin, Leduc and Yellowhead Counties within the province of Alberta.

Resources

<http://invasiveplants.ab.ca/Downloads/FS-MeadowHawkweed.pdf>

<http://linnet.geog.ubc.ca/Atlas/Atlas.aspx?sciname=Hieracium%20caespitosum>

Similar species

- Native Hawkweeds (*Hieracium* sp) Many native hawkweeds are in North America but none will produce stolons and their flowers are mostly yellow, one being white.
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/publications/00230/Hawkweed%20key_PNW_R3-June06.pdf
<http://msuextension.org/publications/AgandNaturalResources/EB0187.pdf>
- Narrow-leaved Hawksbeard (*Crepis tectorum*) taproots, clasping stem leaves, petiolated basal leaves arranged in rosettes, and involucre bracts arranged in two rows.
http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/services/AKNHP.cfc?method=downloadDocumentByUsdaCode&documentType=species_bio&usdaCode=CRTE3
- Sowthistles (*Sonchus* sp.) prickly margins, heads solitary, pappus soft white bristles, achenes flattened, at least twice as wide as thick
<http://goodoakllc.com/info/weeds/sowthistle.pdf>