

## Invasive yellow hawkweeds (*Heiracium spp.*)

### Description:

Yellow hawkweed is a perennial with **fibrous** roots and **rhizomes**. Plants grow up to 90 cm tall and exude a milky juice when injured. Flower heads are in compact, flat-topped clusters of 5-25 (or more). Flower heads are composed of all yellow **ray** flowers with fused petals into a strap-like shape. **Bracts** at the base of flower heads with simple, **stellate** and **glandular** hairs. Leaves are all **basal** except for 1 or 2 stem leaves. Leaves are covered in hair with the upper leaf surface having long simple hairs and possibly a few **stellate** hairs. The lower leaf surface has simple, **stellate** and **glandular** hairs. Lower stems have dense simple, **stellate** or **glandular** hairs.



Photo Credit: ISCBC  
Plant Name: Yellow hawkweed

### Management:

Fertilizer and soil fertility management is important to prevent yellow hawkweed from invading. Minimize soil disturbance and promptly re-vegetate disturbed areas. Dig out **rosettes** and their shallow roots in new, small infestations. Take care not to spread any of the vegetative parts of the plant as re-growth from roots, **stolons** and **rhizomes** can occur. Mowing should be used with caution as it encourages enhanced vegetative spread. Currently no biocontrol agents are available. In soils with low nitrogen and sulphur levels (such as pastures and range areas), where grass species are growing amongst the hawkweed, the competitive ability of grasses can be increased through application of fertilizer with nitrogen and sulphur components. Spring treatments with both nitrogen fertilizer and herbicide is recommended; however, fall herbicide treatments are also effective for control. Hawkweed is a poor competitor in annual cropping systems especially if combined with herbicides which can be used throughout the season.



Plant Name: Yellow Hawkweed  
Plant Part: Rosette



Plant Name: Yellow hawkweed