

## Yukon Alien Alert YISC-2 Narrowleaf Hawksbeard *Crepis tectorum*



### Identification:

- Annual or winter annual
- Grows as a basal rosette with lance-shaped leaves and short tap root
- Produces a single stem (sometimes branched) with numerous yellow flowers
- Stem leaves are linear shaped
- Likes disturbed areas such as cultivated fields or roadsides

### Similar Species in Yukon:

- Native elegant hawksbeard: (*Crepis elegans*)
  - Has many stems growing from the rosette
- Invasive hawkweeds (*Hieracium* spp.)
  - Stems contain a milky juice

### Reasons for Concern:

- Can reduce yield of both annual and perennial crops
- Invades non-agricultural disturbed areas and competes with native vegetation

### How to Prevent Invasion:

- Purchase high quality seed
- Clean farming equipment after use in weedy areas
- Encourage neighbours to do the same, especially if up wind!

Origin: Europe

Recently Seen: Mayo Road and my backyard!

Mode of Transportation: wind and animal dispersed seeds

Current Level of Invasion: Moderate, typically in agricultural areas

### What to do if invaded:

*It's all about seed management: individual plants can produce up to 50,000 seeds, but seeds lose viability within a few years*

- Small stands can be hand-pulled
- For annual cropping systems:
  - Wait until spring flush of rosettes and till prior to seeding
- For perennial systems:
  - Follow same principles for annuals when seeding
  - Mow any hawksbeard prior to seed set in first year
  - If heavily infested, till in and summer fallow, using cultivation in spring and fall to control hawksbeard
  - Consult the Agriculture Branch [agriculture@gov.yk.ca](mailto:agriculture@gov.yk.ca) for chemical control options, but beware, this plant can develop resistance quickly!

### Had success in hawksbeard control? YISC would like to hear from you.

The management options presented here are from Alberta's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and we want to know if the techniques work locally too or if there are better options! Email us at [info@yukoninvasives.com](mailto:info@yukoninvasives.com)

#### **Beware Re-Rooting!**

Hawksbeard can re-root after tillage if conditions are suitable. Tilling during dry periods increases the efficacy of control.

For more information on invasive species in Yukon, check out the Yukon Invasive Species Council's (YISC) website: [www.yukoninvasives.com](http://www.yukoninvasives.com). Concerned about invasive plants on your farm? Sign up for YISC's free Walk Your Field Program to have a botany expert come out to take a look and provide management advice.