

# Hieracium lepidulum

## COMMON NAME

tussock hawkweed

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Hieracium lepidulum* (Stenstr.) Omang

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

HIELEP

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Grassland, roadsides, riverbanks, riverbeds and gold tailings, beech forest, scrub, pine forest.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A perennial herb with erect stems to 15-75 cm tall, having long hairs. Leaves dull green and slightly paler or purplish underneath; 3-15 cm long x 2-7 cm wide; mostly confined to based of stem. Leaves have dense hairs above and often underneath, where long hairs are also present. Flowers occur on straight and erect stems with 2 to 7 bright yellow flower heads per stem. Flowers are never striped, unlike some other hawkweeds. Mainly flowers from Dec-Mar. Fruits are small, dry and black, containing only one seed, the pappus (sheath crowning the seed) is 6-7 mm long and is coloured off-white.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*H. lepidulum* is very similar to *H. pollichiae*, but is easily recognised as its leaves are uniformly green rather than streaked with purple.

## FLOWERING

December, January, February, March

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## FRUITING

(November) - December - March - (May)

## YEAR NATURALISED

1946

## ORIGIN

C. and N. Europe



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## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Accidental

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Perennial. Seed only, does not have stolons. Seed produced December to March. Seed is spread by wind, clothing and animal pelts.

## TOLERANCES

Tolerates low rainfall and poor soils.

## ETYMOLOGY

**hieracium:** From the Greek hierax 'hawk'. Pliny the Elder (AD 23 - AD 79) believed the plant to be eaten by hawks to improve their eyesight.

## NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

**This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord.** The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson, A. T. and Smith, H. A (1986). Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning. Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hieracium-lepidulum/>