

Pilosella caespitosa

COMMON NAME

field hawkweed, meadow hawkweed

SYNONYMS

Hieracium caespitosum

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Pilosella caespitosa (Dumort.) P.D.Sell & C.West

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

PILCAE

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Grassland, scrub, tracksides, riverbanks, forest margins, roadsides, pasture.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

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

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb 20–50 cm tall with basal rosette and stolons. Rosette leaves olive green to red, leaf underside with fine 1–3 mm scattered hairs on surface, mid-rib and edges. Yellow flowers in clusters of 5–20 heads per stem.

SIMILAR TAXA

The presence of stolons, multiple yellow flowers per stem, and fine hairs on the underside of the leaves distinguishes this species from all other *Hieracium* and *Pilosella* in NZ.

FLOWERING

November, December, January (March)

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

December - February - (March)

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Reproduces from seed. Stolons can resprout after damage. Seeds produced October - May Seed dispersed by wind, clothing and animal pelts, rhizomes and stolons by water movement.

YEAR NATURALISED

1940

ORIGIN

Europe



Wetland. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 19/11/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Accidental

TOLERANCES

Less tolerant of grazing than *P. officinarum*. Tolerant of low rainfall and poor soils.

ETYMOLOGY

pilosella: Softly hairy

caespitosa: From the Latin caespes 'tuft' or 'sod of turf', meaning growing in tufts or patches

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/pilosella-caespitosa/>