

**WRITTEN FINDINGS OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD
(NOVEMBER 1997)**

Scientific Name: *Hieracium laevigatum* Willd.

Common Name: Smooth hawkweed

Family: Asteraceae (Compositae)

Legal Status: Class B
a) regions 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9 and 10.
b) San Juan and Island Counties of region 2.

Description and Variation: Smooth hawkweed has large basal leaves that are still present at flowering. There are at least two well developed leaves on each flowering stem. (Allen 1997). The leaves are dentate (toothed along the margin, with the teeth facing outward). This species has densely hairy stems below the flower heads, and is often sparsely stellate further below. The flower head are yellow composites (dandelion-like). *Hieracium laevigatum* is a tall, rugged looking plant that can reach 5feet tall. (J. Reynolds, pers. communication 9/97).

Economic Importance:
Detrimental: This species is highly invasive.
Beneficial: None known

Habitat: Considered the weedy hawkweed, a railroad weed, that does not occupy the same habitat as natives. (Allen, pers. communication 1997). Found in poor, dry soils along roadsides. Quickly spreads and establishes on roadsides.

Geographic Distribution: *H. laevigatum* is of European origin. This species belongs to a widespread and taxonomically difficult groups that contain many polyploids and apomictic races (which no doubt accounts for their weediness). (Allen 1997).

History: Coastal roadside localities of Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish Counties.

Growth and Development: Perennial

Reproduction: By seed.

Response to Herbicide: Early spring application to prevent flower production, requiring follow up during the season as necessary. (Reynolds, 9/97).

Response to Cultural Methods: Unknown

Response to Mechanical Methods: Mowing appears to contribute to the spread.

Biocontrol Potentials: Unknown

References:

*Allen, G.A. and Costanzo, B. 1997. Identification of introduced *Hieracium* (hawkweed) specimens for Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board. Partial Key to *Hieracium* of Washington State.

* *References available from the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board Office in Kent.*

Rationale for Listing:

Hawkweeds have been spreading throughout the northwest over the past few years. *Hieracium laevigatum* is one species in a complex of hawkweeds that are prolific seed producers, weedy and capable of hybridizing with many exotic and probably native species. The relatively limited distribution of smooth hawkweed, at this point in time, makes it feasible to control and halt the spread of yet another invasive hawkweed.