

Narrowleaf hawksbeard (*Crepis tectorum*)

Identification Narrowleaf hawksbeard is a taprooted annual of the Asteraceae family native to Eurasia. Plants have yellow flowers, a basal rosette similar to dandelion, and may reach up to three feet tall (hence its nickname “dandelion on steroids”). Leaves are 0.75-4 inches long, egg shaped (with the wider portion towards to the tip) to linear-lance shaped, and margins are dentate to shallowly lobed. Basal rosette leaves have a stalk, and soon wither upon flowering. Upper leaves are more linear and lack a stalk. Plants emit a milky sap when leaves are torn. In contrast to dandelion, there are leaves on the flowering stem, and plants



can become highly branched. In the rosette stage, they are much trickier to differentiate. For those with adventuresome pallets, dandelion rosette leaves taste like salad, while narrowleaf hawksbeard leaves are sharply bitter and distasteful (after the taste test, spit it out). Plants may also resemble hawkweed (*Hieracium* spp.). Hawkweed basal leaves are entire, not dentate to lobed, and leaves are typically densely hairy, while narrowleaf hawksbeard leaves are hairless to sparsely hairy.

Habitat Plants are especially problematic in no till croplands, CRP lands and hay crops. It is common along railroads and roadsides and in disturbed open areas. Narrowleaf hawksbeard is often a contaminant in alfalfa seed because it is difficult to separate.

Spread Plants produce many seeds (3,000-50,000/plant) which are spread long distances by wind. They also spread in contaminated seed and on machinery.

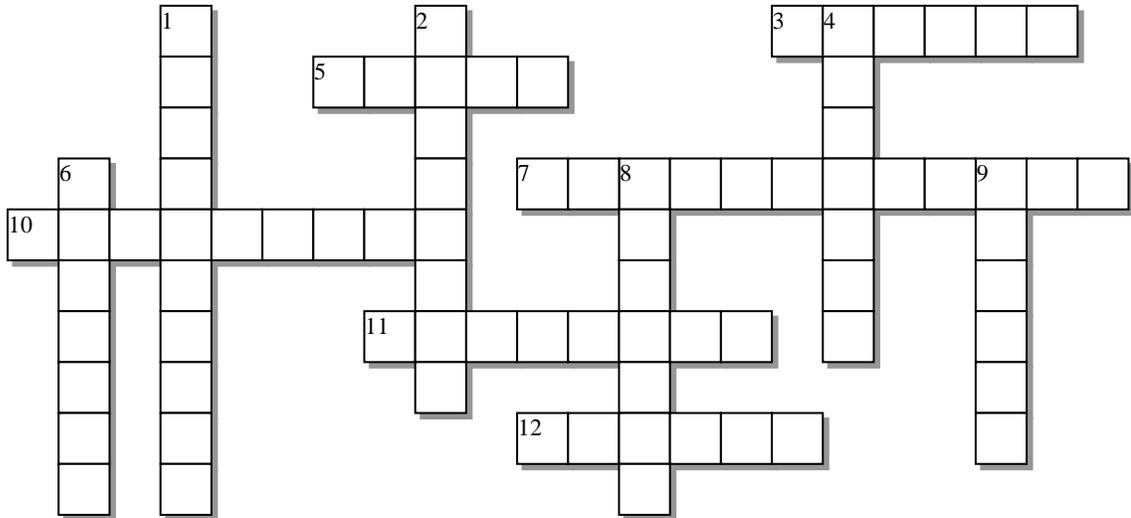
Management Priorities Narrowleaf hawksbeard is not a state listed noxious weed, but it is increasingly problematic in Montana cropland and CRP lands, especially in the northeastern part of the state. Hand pulling is the best recommendation for small infestations. Despite its high dispersal and colonizing ability, research conducted in Saskatchewan and Minnesota indicates that narrowleaf hawksbeard is a weak competitor. Therefore, cultural and preventive management practices are important, such as maintaining competitive vegetation, minimizing disturbance, and detecting infestations when they are small. Be especially cautious if importing hay from southern Canada, where this plant has been problematic for years. Mowing of non-crop areas before seed set can help minimize the spread of this species. This plant can be tough to control with herbicides and more



research is needed. Anecdotal evidence from producers in northeastern Montana suggests 2,4-D at 16-32 oz per acre in the fall to basal rosettes seems to work best. While a high rate of 2,4-D can help control narrowleaf hawksbeard, it can also harm crops such as peas, lentils, canola and flax, especially in the spring. Once plants have bolted, herbicides are much less effective. Producers also found that products that work well for dandelion typically work well for this plant, and that glyphosate alone is not effective. Glyphosate will temporarily stunt plants, but they continue to grow and produce many more flower stems. Thanks to Shelley Mills (Extension Agent) and Brian Fuhrman (producer) from Valley County for contributing their knowledge and experience with this up-and-coming weed.



Test your knowledge of Narrowleaf Hawksbeard



Across:

- 3 - As a preventive measure, be careful if buying hay from here
- 5 - You'll find lots of these on hawkweed leaves, but not so many on hawksbeard leaves
- 7 - This region of Montana has seen an increase in narrowleaf hawksbeard
- 10 - Long distance dispersal of seed can occur via contaminated seed, on _____ and by wind, among other ways
- 11 - In addition to dandelion, narrowleaf hawksbeard looks like this similarly-named plant
- 12 - Put a little balsamic vinaigrette on those dandelion leaves and munch away, but look out for the harshly _____ taste of narrowleaf hawksbeard leaves

Down:

- 1 - Anecdotal evidence suggests this herbicide alone does not control narrowleaf hawksbeard and may even stimulate more flower stems
- 2 - Like dandelion, this plant emits _____ when leaves are torn
- 4 - Separating narrowleaf hawksbeard seed from this seed can be difficult
- 6 - Narrowleaf hawksbeard is not rhizomatous, it has a _____
- 8 - When at this growth stage, it is difficult to tell whether you're looking at narrowleaf hawksbeard or dandelion
- 9 - Unlike hawkweed, basal rosettes of narrowleaf hawksbeard are not _____

Solutions are posted to the MSU Extension Invasive Rangeland Weed website:
<http://www.msuextension.org/invasiveplantsMangold/extensionsub.html>

