Maryland hawkweed (*Hieracium greenii)*

Pennsylvania Endangered

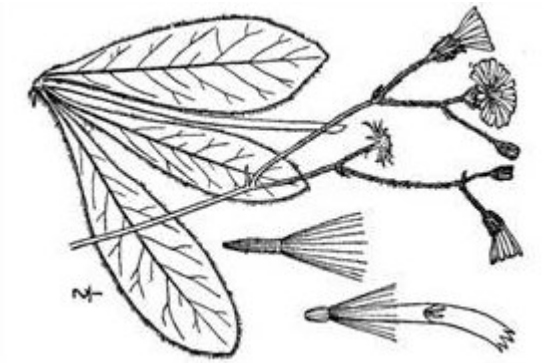
State Rank: S1 (critically imperiled), Global Rank: G4 (apparently secure)

What it looks like:

Maryland hawkweed (also called Traill Green's hawkweed or shale-barren hawkweed) is a short perennial herb that grows in clones connected by underground rhizomes. It is part of a large genus (*Hieracium*), which contains hundreds of species.

Leaves are oblong to lance-shaped, with long bristles more dense on the lower surface than the upper surface.

Flowers are small and perfect with single yellow petals called ligules, clustered in a conical to cylindrical head. The involucre, a circle of small leaves surrounding the base of each flowering head, is noticeably hairy.

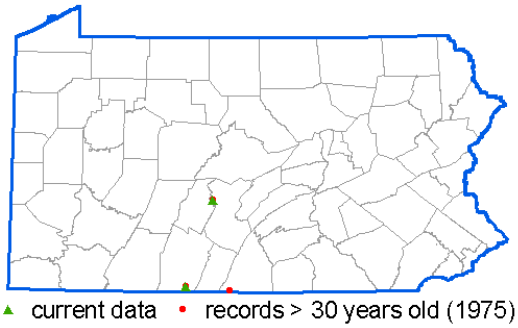


USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database, *Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada*. (Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. Vol. 2: 92.)

Where it is found:

Maryland hawkweed grows in open, dry conditions in the mountain woods and shale barrens – ridge-top areas of nutrient-poor shale – of the central Appalachians, from Pennsylvania and Ohio south to Kentucky and Virginia.

Pennsylvania Distribution by County



▲ current data • records > 30 years old (1975)

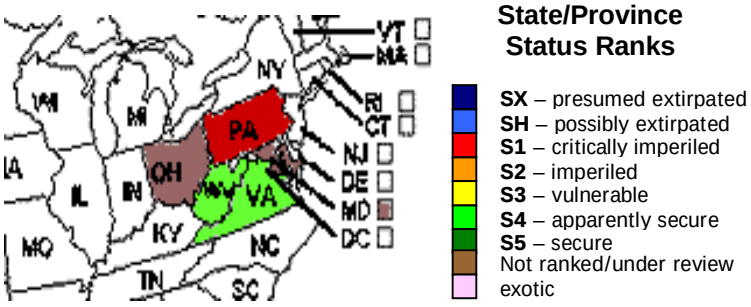
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program data 2005

Why it is rare:

Maryland hawkweed only occurs in a handful of locations within Pennsylvania. Shale barrens, a key habitat area for this plant, are relatively rare in Pennsylvania, which may restrict its range somewhat.

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe (August 2007)



State/Province Status Ranks

- **SX** – presumed extirpated
- **SH** – possibly extirpated
- **S1** – critically imperiled
- **S2** – imperiled
- **S3** – vulnerable
- **S4** – apparently secure
- **S5** – secure
- Not ranked/under review
- exotic

Conservation considerations:

Conserving Maryland hawkweed in Pennsylvania will probably need to be connected to conservation of the shale barrens in the south-central part of the state, areas of unique habitat supporting several plant species which are not found growing under any other condition. Conservation efforts should take into account the amount of space needed for existing populations to expand and the need to control exotic invasive species that may out-compete Maryland hawkweed in dry, nutrient-poor conditions.

Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

References

- Gleason, Henry A. and Arthur Cronquist. 1991. *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*. Second ed. New York: The New York Botanical Garden. 624.
- NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available http://www.natureserve.org/explorer. (Accessed: August 31, 2007).
- Platt, Robert B. 1951. "An ecological study of the mid-Appalachian shale barrens and of the plants endemic to them." *Ecological Monographs*, 21(4):269-300.
- United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2005. The PLANTS Database [web application]. National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA. Available at http://plants.usda.gov. Accessed 2 March 2005.