

***Packera macounii* • Siskiyou Mtn. or Macoun's groundsel • PAMA**

Asteraceae Family

Plant Description

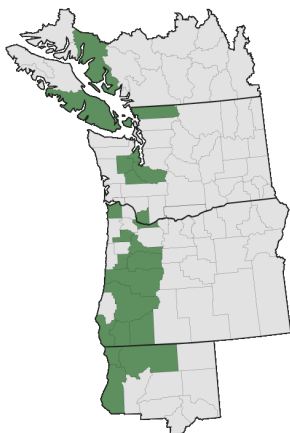


Photo by Keir Morse, Cal photos

Macoun's groundsel makes dense clumps or rosettes close to the ground from a woody rootstock. The leaves are linear-lanceolate (lance shaped) carried at the end of long petioles (leaf stems). There are rarely teeth or wavy edges to the leaves. The leaves are covered with short, dense, matted hairs (tomentose) giving the leaves a complete grey cast, especially later in the season as the weather becomes drier.

The flowers are borne atop short stems in June and July with the seed ripening soon after. The aster-like seed is held in small flower heads with 5-10 seeds per head. A short seed covering (achene) is topped with short hairs on the end of the seed (pappus, like a dandelion seed).

Ecological Significance



This plant is common in southern Oregon and the Willamette Valley, especially in rocky prairies and outcrops. Northward into WA and BC the plant becomes rare and its habitat more fragmented. This plant is listed with the State of Washington as *critically imperiled* due to the reduction in native prairie acreage. Though it was once found in a wider range, the only known remaining population in south Puget lowland prairies is on Joint Base Lewis-McChord. The plants we raise are from that small source population.

Range of *Packera macounii*, showing CA, OR, WA and BC from *Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest*

Growth and Reproduction

Packera macounii grows in a manner common to many perennials from the aster plant family on the West Coast of the United States. Many bloom in late spring to early summer and ripen seed in the hottest, driest part of the year. Summer rain is uncommon in most lowland areas of western North America, and plants must develop adaptations to set seed under dry conditions. The leaves can persist and provide nutrients to the developing seed by being small, linear and covered with grey hairs: this reduces water loss and overheating during the summer. Often the seed is quite small and ripens quickly after pollination further reducing the plant's need for moisture.



Packera grows in sites where there is little competition from other vegetation. The seed is adapted to germinate in open conditions, requiring a broad spectrum of light to germinate. In the nursery, the seed is sown on the surface of the soil. Fresh seed needs no stratification but we are experimenting to provide a more detailed protocol.

Photos by Keir Morse, Calphotos, UC Berkeley

Seed Dimensions

Measurement Range: L: 4-6 mm

W: 0.5-1 mm D: 0.5-0.7 mm

Surface: elongate with longitudinal grooves, colored black and tan, short pappus hairs

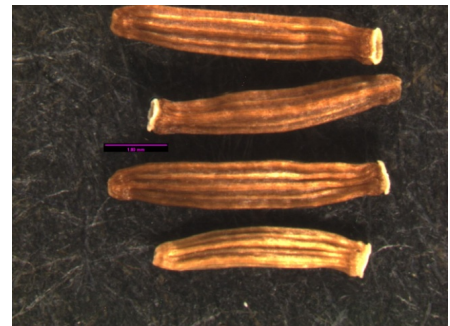


Photo by Lisa Hintz

Sowing Information

- Seeds per gram: 2410
- Seeds per cell: 2
- Cover soil: into gravel
- Stratification: no stratification necessary with fresh seed; information in development for stored seed