

TAPERTIP HAWKSBEARD

Crepis acuminata Nuttall
Plant Symbol = CRAC2



Project description

The Aberdeen Plant Materials Center (PMC) is beginning a study of tapertip hawksbeard (*Crepis acuminata*) with the goal of a selected class release.

Tapertip hawksbeard is a short-lived perennial forb native to a wide range of plant communities in the western United States. This forb is one of the most important native flowering species in the intermountain west. It has very high potential for use in rangeland and restoration seedings throughout the Aberdeen PMC service area.

The PMC plans to make wildland seed collections in the summer of 2011 and begin initial evaluation studies in 2012. We need your assistance and help in locating stands, monitoring seed maturity and assisting with seed collection.

Description

Tapertip hawksbeard is a short lived perennial forb in the sunflower family. It has leaves and flowers similar to those of a dandelion, but is more erect and branched in form. Adult plants can be 50 to 80 cm (20 to 30 in) tall. This plant should not be confused with mountain dandelion (*Agoseris* spp.) which does not have branches or leaves coming off of the main stem.

Habitat

Tapertip hawksbeard is common in numerous plant communities within sagebrush steppe plant communities in the valley floor to aspen and spruce/fir plant communities at higher elevations. Populations are easily spotted in Wyoming, mountain and basin big sagebrush communities.

Time to collect

Plants flower in late spring into early summer. Seed ripens in mid-summer and remains on the plant until blown off. When ripe, the seed easily falls out of the floral head.

How to collect

Seed can be collected by stripping inflorescences and seed by hand into paper sacks, or by pruning inflorescences using shears. Ripe seed can be shaken into collection bags without clipping. For genetic diversity, each seed collection should be made from no fewer than 50 plants. To provide enough seed for testing, out-planting and evaluation, we recommend collecting about a half to a full shopping sack worth of materials depending on the amount of inert matter. More seed is always better.



Selection criteria

Select plants from large healthy stands with good overall vigor, good seed production, and leafiness. Special selection criteria might include plants found on particularly harsh sites, good seedling establishment traits (young plants found near mother plants), and good early season growth.

Things to include

Along with your seed collection, please include a completed NRCS seed collection form NRCS-ECS-580:

<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/Publications/ecs580.pdf>.

If possible, also include a pressed voucher specimen and photos of the site and individual plants.

Thanks: Cooperation from field offices and other agencies is essential for the PMC to produce the best plant material products possible. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Any questions or comments should be directed to Derek Tilley or Loren St. John at the PMC - Phone: (208) 397-4133 or to Dan Ogle at the Idaho state office – Phone: (208) 685-6987.

Seed should be sent to the PMC at:

USDA-NRCS, Aberdeen PMC
P.O. Box 296
1691A S. 2700 W.
Aberdeen, ID 83210

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