

Hawkweed (*Hieracium* spp.) surveillance: development of a targeted and robust plan for the Victorian Alps

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Summary In Victoria, hawkweeds (*Hieracium* spp.) are declared as State prohibited weeds, the highest category of noxious weeds, which are managed with the aim of eradication from the state due to their significant threat to Victoria's environmental, agricultural and social values. Surveillance is a vital step in the eradication process to ensure that all plants are detected and controlled.

There are a number of small hawkweed infestations in Victoria, the largest of which is in the Falls Creek and Bogong High Plains area of the Victorian Alps. It is not possible to survey the entirety of the landscape each year, so creating a surveillance plan is necessary, but complex. The landscape must be closely examined to prioritise areas where surveillance will be most beneficial.

To assist in surveillance planning, a model developed by the University of Melbourne was used to prioritise areas for surveillance. The model requires inputs of information for each potential survey location: the likelihood of hawkweed occurrence; the detectability of hawkweed; and the value of finding a new hawkweed infestation, relative to other areas. The model uses this information, plus the hours of surveillance effort available, to inform the priority grids for survey.

The model was used to develop a three year surveillance plan for hawkweed at Falls Creek and the surrounding area. The results and learnings from the first year of the plan will also be discussed.

Keywords Hawkweed, *Hieracium*, surveillance.