

# Maryland hawkweed (*Hieracium traillii*)

**Pennsylvania Endangered**

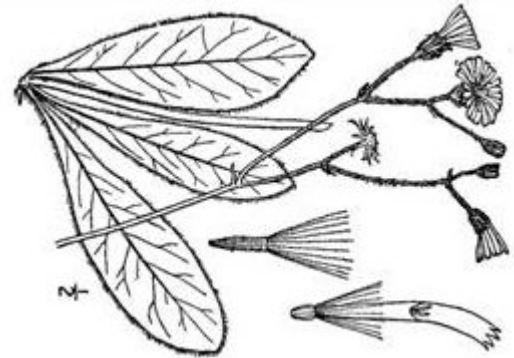
**State Rank: S1 (critically imperiled), Global Rank: G4 (apparently secure)**

## 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.)

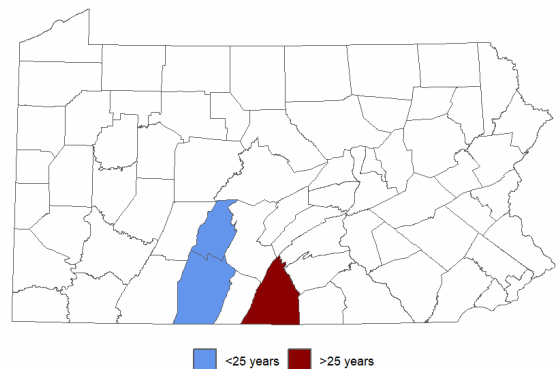
## Where it is found:

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.

## Why it is rare:

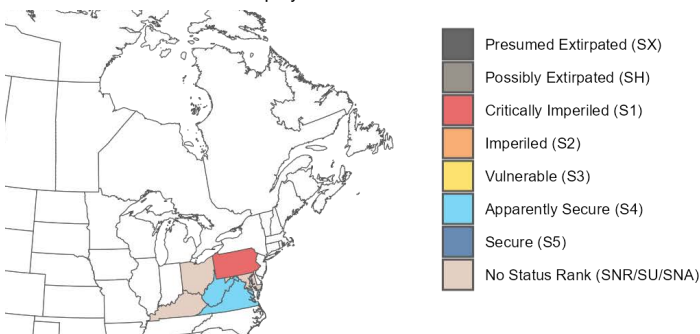
Maryland hawkweed only occurs in a handful of locations within Pennsylvania. Shale barrens, a key habitat area for this plant, are relatively rare in Pennsylvania, which may restrict its range somewhat.

Maryland Hawkweed (*Hieracium traillii*)



## North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2025



## 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.

## 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. 2025. NatureServe Explorer [web application] NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <https://explorer.natureserve.org> (Accessed: May 8, 2025)
- 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.

