

Spotted Catsear

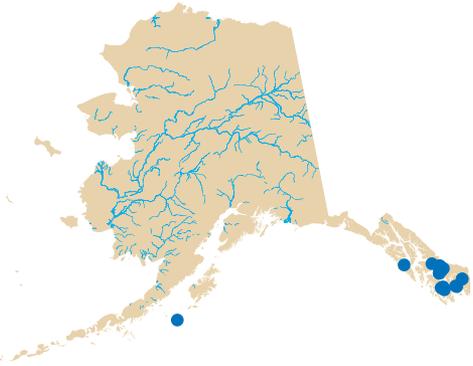
Hypochaeris radicata L.

Alternate names

hairy catsear, false dandelion

Description

Spotted catsear is an herbaceous perennial plant with a basal rosette of dandelion-shaped leaves that are 2–8 inches long. Leaves are densely hairy on both sides. There are no leaves on the stems, which can be several simple or sparsely branched and grow 6–4 inches high. Flowers have yellow heads, 1–1½ inches in diameter, and often have several heads per stem.



KULAK photo by Paul Busselen

Similar Species

Spotted catsear looks similar to other dandelion tribe members, including two other exotic species included in this book: common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* G.H. Weber ex Wiggers ssp. *officinale*) and hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis* L.). Spotted catsear can be distinguished from dandelion by the presence of flowerheads that appear in groups of 3–4 at the ends of stems. Hawkbit can be distinguished by the presence of leaves that are smooth and shiny rather than heavily hairy like those of spotted catsear.



XID Services photo by Richard Old

Management

It is effective to remove scattered spotted catsear plants with a spade below the rootcrown in early spring as soon as the leaves appear, to a depth of several inches. Badly infested fields should be cultivated for one to two years before reseeding. Herbicide treatment provides effective control of this species.

Notes

Spotted catsear is originally from Europe and is very abundant in California. It is also known as gosmore, flatweed, and coast dandelion. The common name comes from the leaves that resemble a cat's ears.



XID Services photo by Richard Old