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Erechtites hieraciifolius

[Synonyms : *Erechtites hieracifolia*, *Erechtites hieraciifolius* var. *cacalioides*, *Senecio cacalioides*, *Senecio hieracifolia*, *Senecio hieraciifolius*]

FIREWEED is an invasive annual. Native to North America it has brush-shaped heads of white or yellow flowers.

It is also known as American burnweed, Burnweed, Composite fireweed, Crenate milkweed, Pilewort, *Starčkovec jestřábníkolistý* (Czech), and White fireweed.

Warning – the leaves may be poisonous in large doses or if ingested over a long period and could cause vomiting, gastroenteritis and liver damage.

Hieraciifolius is made up of the genus name *Hieracium* and Latin *-folia* (leaved) components meaning ‘with leaves like those of that genus’.

Following a fire fireweed can often spring up from nowhere to cover the ground.

North American Indian tribes used the plant for treating sore throats, haemorrhages, diarrhoea and eczema. Herbalists have recommended it as an internal remedy for coughs, piles and dysentery, and also to ease the pain of sciatica, gout and rheumatism by external application. It has also been used in homoeopathic medicine.