

Orange Hawkweed

Hieracium aurantiacum

The last time this weed was found in Asotin County was July, 2003. That summer two separate infestations were found approximately 2 miles apart (approximately 4,000 feet in elevation). Thanks to alert landowners, these plants were treated and the surrounding areas were surveyed for other infestations. If you own land above 2,500 feet or own riparian property you may have appropriate habitat for orange hawkweed. This is an easy plant to identify. It looks like an orange dandelion.

Orange hawkweed is also known as king devil, devil's paintbrush, or fox and cubs.

Orange hawkweed is an herbaceous perennial that was introduced from Eurasia prior to 1820 as a garden cultivar. It reproduces by seeds, creeping stems and rhizomes. The bristly stems are customarily leafless arising from a basal leaf cluster. Leaves are generally smooth and contain a milky sap. Flower heads have multiple compact red-orange flowers similar to those of the dandelion. It generally blooms in June and July.

This plant will infest forests, lawns and gardens, pastures, meadows and wetlands, limiting and out-competing native pasture and range species.

Mechanical control is ineffective for hawkweeds because of their ability to reproduce by stolons. Regular tillage and/or herbicide applications are effective control methods. When selective herbicides are applied in the spring and followed with nitrogen fertilizer, grass competition can keep this weed suppressed.

No biological control agents are available for orange hawkweed.

There are very few orange flowers in Asotin County; when you see one, stop, take a look. If it looks like an orange dandelion, call the Asotin County Noxious Weed Department.

