

NOXIOUS WEED ALERT

ORANGE HAWKWEED

(Hieracium aurantiacum)

- Orange hawkweed grows from a few inches to two feet in height
- The hairy stems are usually leafless.
- The lance-shaped leaves that grow at the base of the plant are hairy.
- The plants produces stolons (creeping stems), the tips of which develop into new plants.
- The flower heads are clustered at the top of the stems.
- The flowers are bright orange, similar to dandelion flowers, but smaller—about an inch in diameter.
- The seeds are black, very small, with a tuft of bristles at one end.
- The entire plant contains a milky juice.



Look-a-likes:

Two native hawkweed species grow in Clallam County, but their flowers are white or yellow, not bright orange.

Distribution:

There are over twenty orange hawkweed sites throughout Clallam County. Most are ornamental plantings, but there are several large roadsides sites along Highway 101. Mallard Cove and open, sunny areas around Lake Sutherland contain the worst known infestations.

WHY BE CONCERNED?

- Orange hawkweed aggressively competes with pasture species.
- It is unpalatable to livestock and crowds out more desirable species.
- It can spread and overtake other small ornamental plants.

Orange hawkweed is a Class B designate weed.

Control is required in Clallam County.

Ecology:

- Orange hawkweed grows mainly in pastures and on roadsides; it needs sun.
- It is an unpalatable perennial that can reproduce by seeds, stolons (stems that produce new plants) and rhizomes (underground stems).
- Most hawkweed infestations begin by seed, but once plants are established they spread by stolons or rhizomes, and can produce dense patches.



hawkweed stolons

CONTROL

Prevention and early detection are the best means of control.

- **Do not buy or plant** orange hawkweed.
- **Avoid** introducing soil or gravel from areas known to have orange hawkweed.
- **Remove** seedlings when young because they can usually be pulled easily and they have not had an opportunity to reproduce.
- **Replant** with a desirable (preferably native) plant species, to discourage reinfestation.
- **Dispose** of weeds properly, bag or burn seed heads or fragments that may resprout.
- **Monitor** the site for several years; promptly remove new seedlings.

DIGGING out the rosettes will remove small infestations. Care must be taken to dig out all of the root system, since even a small piece may develop into a new plant. Dispose of all plants parts carefully.

MOWING is not an effective long term control method because the leaves are too low-lying to be cut by the mower. Mowing can reduce or prevent seed production by removing flower heads.

HERBICIDES can be effective, but should always be applied with care. Do not apply herbicides over or near water bodies. Read the label to check that you are applying an herbicide in the right place, to the right plant, at the right time, and in the right amount. For perennial weeds, long term control requires stopping seed production **and** attacking the weed's root system.

Translocated herbicides, (ones that move throughout a plant's system) are recommended.

- Banvel™ (dicamba) will control orange hawkweed; it should be applied before flowering, and retreatment may be necessary. See the label for restrictions regarding lactating dairy animals and animals that are going to be slaughtered.
- Curtail™ (2-4,D and clopyralid) is also used; it should applied before flower buds form. Fall treatment may be effective, but is too late to prevent seed set.

Both these products may injure sensitive broadleaf plants.

- **Apply** herbicide to **actively growing** plants. Applications to active growth increase effectiveness because the herbicide moves around the plant more quickly. Also, herbicide is more easily absorbed by clean, new leaves which have not developed the thickened cuticle (waxy coating) present on mature leaves, which resists herbicide penetration.

Call if you see this plant.

Prepared by the **Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board**; revised 11/2000

For more information call: **(360)-417-2442**

or see www.clallam.net/weed