



ORANGE HAWKWEED

Hieracium aurantiacum



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- ✦ Other names: flameweed, devil's-weed, devil's paintbrush, red daisy
- ✦ Orange Hawkweed is a Class B Designate weed.
- ✦ An herbaceous perennial from the Asteraceae Family. This species spreads by seeds, stolons, and rhizomes.
- ✦ Plants have a basal rosette of narrow, pointed leaves, which may be smooth or have bristles, but are not wooly underneath like the Mouse-ear hawkweed. Its leaves contain a milky sap. Orange hawkweed produces 5 to 30 compact, flower heads that are bright red with an orange center and are composed of all ray flowers. They stand from a few inches to 2 feet tall with stems that are leafless and covered with stiff hairs.
- ✦ Its creeping growth fills in the gaps between other plants forming mats of rosettes which prevent other plants from establishing seedlings.

When conditions are ideal, one plant can spread and infest a 2 to 3 foot area in one years' growth.

- ✦ Orange hawkweed is one of only 6 known Pollen Allelopathic plants. The pollen released from its flowers releases toxins that inhibit the seed germination, seedling emergence and sporophytic growth of surrounding plants.
- ✦ Orange hawkweed infests wetlands and lawns and is especially invasive on poorer acidic soils. It is an aggressive competitor for pastures, meadows, native grasslands and prefers full to partial sunlight. It is unpalatable and crowds out more palatable species.

CONTROL OPTIONS

- ✦ As usual with invasive species, the best control measure for Orange Hawkweed is prevention. Early detection and eradication are vital to prevent the spread of hawkweed.
- ✦ Orange hawkweed continues to be introduced in wildflower seed mixtures. Carefully review the ingredients of wildflower



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mixes to avoid accidental introduction.

- ✦ For small infestations, manual removal can help control hawkweeds. Prevent seed production by removing plants that are budded or blooming. Bag all plant materials and dispose of them in the garbage, do not compost.



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- ✦ Treatment with nitrogen will help the grasses to competitively suppress hawkweed growth.
- ✦ Early season treatment with 2, 4 D plus *dicamba* (as in Weedmaster & Banvel, etc.) can be effective in controlling orange hawkweed.
- ✦ Spot spraying with an herbicide containing the active ingredient *glyphosate* (Roundup Pro, Glyfos, etc.) may be used effectively in the spring while the plant is in the pre-bud to

early bud growth stage. The goal is to insure all plants have emerged. Spray each plant thoroughly on the stems and leaves, enough to be wet but not dripping. Be aware, *glyphosate* is non-selective and will injure any plants that it comes in contact with, including grass.

- ✦ For selective control of hawkweed in agricultural settings (pastures, hayfields, etc.): an herbicide containing the active ingredient *aminopyralid* (example: Milestone, Milestone VM, etc.) may be applied in the spring to plants in the pre-bud to early bud growth stage, it is also effective in the fall before a killing frost. *Aminopyralid* products will not harm grass and can be used around livestock provided all label precautions are followed.
- ✦ When using herbicides, always read and follow all label instructions and obey all label precautions. (Note: pesticide product registration is renewed annually and product names and formulations may vary from year to year.)