



Whatcom Weeds

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board 322 N. Commercial St Bellingham WA 98225
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ORANGE HAWKWEED

Hieracium aurantiacum

THREAT: Orange hawkweed, introduced from Europe as a garden ornamental, can quickly invade pastures, roadsides, rangeland and lawns. In the eastern U.S. where it is common, orange hawkweed is considered one of the most troublesome introduced weeds. This plant spreads both by seed and by runners and rhizomes. The seed can be transported by wind, vehicles and animals. As it is unpalatable to livestock, orange hawkweed can outcompete grass in grazed areas. Once established, it can form dense stands that exclude other vegetation.

DESCRIPTION: Orange hawkweed is a perennial herb with a fibrous root system. The plant grows about a foot high and has bright orange-red flowers, located at the top of the stems. It blooms in the summer, and when it is in flower, it is difficult to mistake this plant. The plant has a rosette of leaves at the base and the leafless flowering stalk is covered with stiff, black, glandular hairs. The plant contains a milky sap. Orange hawkweed can spread by runners, much like a strawberry plant, and by underground rhizomes.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Methods for managing orange hawkweed include both chemical and mechanical techniques. For small areas of orange hawkweed, the plants can be dug out. Care must be taken to remove as many root fragments as possible, as plants will re-sprout from any left in the ground. The removed plant and root pieces should be burned or disposed of where they are unable to re-sprout. Contact the Weed Control Board for site-specific chemical recommendations.

