



THURSTON COUNTY NOXIOUS WEEDS FACT SHEET

Hawkweeds

Hieracium ssp.

Description:

Mouseear hawkweed is a perennial, low-growing species that is found on only three major sites in the State of Washington. These plants are unique in that they have stolons (horizontal creeping stems that root at the nodes or tip, and produce new plants) as well as seeds for reproduction. Mouseear hawkweed forms basal rosettes with hairy leaves. The upper surface is smooth and green, while the lower is whitish and woolly with dense hairs. Plants contain a milky juice. A solitary yellow flower about one inch wide forms seed.



Mouseear



Yellow devil

Yellow devil hawkweed is a perennial herb with many slender and leafy stolons (horizontal stems) at the base of the plant, and a long rhizome (underground stem). This hawkweed has a well developed cluster of basal leaves at the time of flowering in early summer. The basal leaves are covered with a whitish or bluish waxy coating, and are as large as or larger than any of the upper leaves. The top of the leaf is smooth whereas the underside of the leaf has scattered, bristly hairs, particularly along the mid-rib. The leaf margins toward the base are also covered with long bristles. The leaves along the stolon are more hairy than the basal leaves. The single flowering stem is 8 - 32 inches tall, sparsely scattered with long bristles that are blackish and tipped with star-like glands.

Orange hawkweed has matted hairy leaves, the flowers are bright orange and easily distinguishable from other hawkweeds. The flowering branches, or shoots, grow from a few inches to two feet in height. They are leafless and covered with stiff black hairs.

Impacts:

Hawkweeds are aggressive competitors of pasture and range plant species. Research indicates that mouseear hawkweed displaces native species by forming a dense carpet of rosettes to the exclusion of other plants. A threatened plant located on the Rocky Prairie Preserve is affected by the aggressiveness of mouseear hawkweed. Orange hawkweed is a serious pest of lowland pasture, mountain meadows, and lawns. It is often cosmopolitan (found in cities) because the unwary wildflower enthusiast has been known to bring it home as an ornamental. Yellow devil hawkweed out competes desirable forage and native plants in pastures and natural areas



Orange

Control Options:

Thurston County's Integrated Pest Management emphasizes cultural, biological, and manual control methods to keep pests and vegetation problems low enough to prevent damage. The goal of Thurston County's pesticide use policy is to minimize the use of pesticides by utilizing and providing information about the most effective control options that are available and practical.

► Manual Techniques

Evaluations of mouseear hawkweed infestation sites over three seasons where manual control was used showed a zero percent effectiveness rate, all known sites still had infestations. Therefore other methods are necessary for adequate control.

► Mechanical Control

Mechanical control methods can be used on larger infestations with either manually operated brush cutting tools or tractor mounted mowers. Scotch Broom should be cut during the draught stress portions of the year July through September. Up to 80% mortality will occur if cut during this time frame. Cutting in the spring and early summer achieves virtually no control although it may prevent some seed production. Mechanical control techniques alone are not effective on gorse plants as the plants simply re-grow at all times of the year.

► Biological

A seed weevil, and a seed beetle have both been introduced to Thurston County to reduce the populations of Scotch broom in the long term. Both agents are distributed throughout Thurston County.

► Chemical

There are two types of herbicides that can be used to control Hawkweed; selective and non-selective. Selective herbicides kill or inhibit growth of certain types of plants (like broad leaf plants) and do not kill other types (like grasses). Non-selective chemicals kill nearly all types of plants. [Glyphosate](#) is a non-selective active ingredient found in a number of products (like RoundUp Pro®, with 41% glyphosate) that are effective in controlling hawkweed. Glyphosate works well because it is a systemic herbicide that is taken in through the stems and leaves and distributed to kill all parts of the plant.

Glyphosate products can be used to treat individual plants or small patches. Glyphosate will not prevent future hawkweed seed germination or prevent the growth of more desirable species. Products with an initial glyphosate concentration of 40% or greater should be used to mix to a 2% product spray solution (this excludes pre-mixed/ready-to-use products).

Another effective active ingredient for Hawkweed is [aminopyralid](#). It is a selective herbicide for control of broadleaf weeds and is especially effective at targeting plants in the hawkweed (asteraceae) family. It can, however, cause significant damage to other broadleaf plants, including desirable forbs such as clover. Aminopyralid products are currently only sold in agricultural herbicides (like Milestone®). Agricultural herbicides are available in farm supply stores, and are only to be used on those areas.



Method and Herbicide	Product Rates	Mix RoundUp Pro®
RoundUp Pro® Spot/Foliar	2%	To 1 gallon of water add 2.66 oz. RoundUp Pro®, apply to foliage at or beyond bud stage.
Milestone® Spot/Foliar	1 tsp per 1000 ft ²	To treat a 1,000 sq. ft. area: Using a 2 to 4 gallon backpack or tank sprayer, add half of the water needed to cover all plants with one teaspoon Milestone™, agitate, then add water to reach desired amount (0.5 - 2.5 gallons total volume, depending on quantity and size of plants). Lightly spray all hawkweed plants in 1,000 sq. ft. area, then continue lightly spraying the hawkweed until the tank is empty and all plants have been thoroughly covered. The addition of a non-ionic surfactant (at least 80% active ingredient) is recommended to enhance herbicide activity.

READ AND FOLLOW ALL LABEL DIRECTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS. Use of brand names does not imply endorsement and is for reference only; other formulations of the same herbicides may be available under other names. Information provided is current as of the date of the fact sheet. Pesticide product registration is renewed annually and product names and formulations may vary from year to year.



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