

Orange Hawkweed

(*Hieracium aurantiacum*)

Description: Orange Hawkweed is a perennial plant with matted, hairy leaves and showy flower heads. The flowers are bright orange-red, about an inch in diameter, born in tight clusters of 5 to 35 flowers at the top of wiry stalks from June to August. The flower stalks grow from a few inches to 2 feet in height, are nearly leafless, occasionally with 1 or 2 small clasping leaves, and are covered with distinctive, stiff black hairs. Plants spread by seeds, rhizomes (underground stems) or numerous hairy, leafy stolons (above ground runners).

Impacts: Orange Hawkweed reproduces and spreads through prolific seed production as well as vegetatively through stolons and rhizomes. Under ideal conditions, one plant can spread and infest an area 2-3 feet in diameter in its first year of growth. It forms extensive mats, displacing native species and lowering biodiversity. It is an aggressive competitor for space, light and soil nutrients. Hawkweeds are able to produce seed either with or without pollination, and their own pollen is allelopathic, which can cause other plants to be infertile, giving them an even greater advantage.

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.



► Cultural / Habitat

The most effective control of Orange Hawkweed is prevention. Originally a garden ornamental, it continues to be reintroduced as a component in wildflower seed mixtures or when propagated by the unwary wildflower enthusiast. Review the ingredients of wildflower mixes to avoid accidental introduction, and avoid using wildflower mixes with unidentified seed components entirely. To prevent plants from spreading from known infestations, carefully clean vehicles, boots, clothing, and pets after visiting infested areas.

► Manual / Mechanical

For isolated plants or small patches, manual removal can help control hawkweeds, especially if used to prevent seed production by removing plants that are budded or in bloom. Use care when digging around rosettes; pieces of root crowns and stolons will form new plants very quickly if left in contact with the soil. Be very careful to double bag removed plants and deposit in garbage, not compost.

► Biological

There are currently no known biocontrol agents for use on hawkweeds in the United States. Since there are many native, non-invasive hawkweed species as well, it seems unlikely that insects or pathogens will be discovered that would be effective on noxious strains without causing damage to native varieties.



► **Chemical**

Spot spraying with **glyphosate** (example: Roundup Pro®, Glyphos®, etc.) is effective in controlling Orange Hawkweed. Glyphosate products can be used to treat individual plants or small patches. Currently, products containing the active ingredient glyphosate are the only herbicides for the control of Orange Hawkweed considered “low in hazard” by Thurston County’s pesticide review process for the potential for chemical mobility and persistence.



Thurston County has observed that most ready-to-use, pre-mixed products do not contain sufficient active ingredients to be as effective as concentrated products that are then mixed with water to create a specific finished concentration. The following instructions are for products containing 41% glyphosate which will be mixed down to a specified dilution rate. Be sure to read your label carefully, and make adjustments to rates accordingly.

Foliar applications of glyphosate (ROUNDUP PRO™):

- Spot applications with glyphosate products are effective. Spot application means the herbicide is applied only to the plants and not on the surrounding plants or soil. Spray each plant thoroughly on the stems and leaves enough to be wet but not dripping.
- Glyphosate is non-selective, and will injure any plants that it comes in contact with, including grass.
- Keep people and pets off treated areas until spray solution has dried.

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 a preferred choice. Aminopyralid products will not harm grass and can be used around livestock (provided all label precautions are followed). **Do not use plant material or hay from treated areas for mulch. Likewise, do not use manure from animals that have grazed or eaten hay from treated areas.**

Aminopyralid is currently sold in agricultural labeled herbicides that are only to be used in areas listed on the label, and are available in farm supply stores. Aminopyralid products are considered moderate in hazard by Thurston County’s review process for the potential for chemical mobility and persistence.

Herbicide & Method	Product Rates	Mix
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 ft²	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.

Timing: Apply either glyphosate or aminopyralid in the spring to plants in the pre-bud to early bud growth stage—the goal is to insure all plants have emerged. Applications of aminopyralid are also effective in the fall before a killing frost.

READ AND FOLLOW ALL LABEL DIRECTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS. Obey all label precautions and safety measures. Always use personal protective equipment that includes coveralls, waterproof gloves, shoes plus socks, and protective eyewear. Use of brand names does not connote 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.

REFERENCES:

Pacific Northwest Extension Bulletin #499, Hawkweeds, September, 1997
 The Role of Pollen Allelopathy in Weed Ecology, Stephen D. Murphy, Weed Technology, 2001, Volume 15:867-872
 University of Idaho “Hawkweed News”, Volume 1, Issue 1, March 1995
 USDA Forest Service Weed of the Week, http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/orange-hawkweed%20.pdf



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