

Meadow and Orange Hawkweed

Hieracium caespitosum Dumort, *Hieracium aurantiacum*



David Cappaert, Bugwood.org

Plant Family: Sunflower (Asteraceae)

Other Names: meadow hawkweed, field hawkweed, yellow king-devil, yellow hawkweed: devil's-paintbrush, red daisy, flameweeder, devil's weed

Similar Species: other hawkweeds, dandelion, none for the orange variety

Weed Classification: Priority 2B

Native to: Europe

Is This Weed Toxic? Not known to be



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Identification

Both of the State-listed perennial noxious hawkweeds are quite pretty in their own right. Orange hawkweed is a brilliant flame-orange color reminiscent of a dandelion flower, and has multiple flower heads on each tall leaf-less stalk; while meadow hawkweed has a very similar flower structure to its orange counterpart, except that it is traditional dandelion yellow and tends to grow on a taller stalk. These plants are some of the first noxious weeds you will see flowering in the spring. Both varieties grow on thin hairy stalks that emerge from low rosettes. The meadow variety leaves tend to be smoother and angle upward more often than orange varieties, with leaves that are very hairy and generally lay lower and closer to the ground. Both varieties spread primarily by runners similar to strawberry plants although they can also spread by seed. These plants take over quickly by growing into a dense mat that excludes desired species.

Treatment

While fertilization may promote the health of other noxious weeds, hawkweed responds poorly to fertilization due to its inability to handle high nitrogen. Fertilization can be used prior to an herbicide application to increase the negative impact on hawkweed, while also bolstering the health of the surrounding desirable grasses.

Tilling will spread stolons and rhizomes, but it may be combined with other control methods to see positive results.

Due to the physical build of a hawkweed plant, it is possible to successfully pull these plants if the rosette and stolon are completely removed. This is only effective on small patches and should be combined with fertilization and revegetation.

Burning, grazing, and mowing are NOT effective methods of control for this weed due to plant structure and the high probability that spread will take place through its runners.

Herbicide application after fertilization is recommended. Combine the herbicide with a surfactant for the most effective penetration of the plant's surface hairs.

"*Hieracium Caespitosum*." *Hieracium Caespitosum*. United States Forest Service, n.d. Web. 06 Mar. 2017.

Jacobs, Jim, and Jessie Wiese. *Ecology and Management of Invasive Hawkweeds [Hieracium Spp]* (2007): n. pag. *Nrcs.usda.gov*. USDA NRCS. Web. 2 Feb. 2017.



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