

# Orange & Yellow Hawkweed

*Hieracium aurantiacum*, *Hieracium caespitosum*

Sunflower Family

## Class B Noxious Weeds: Control Required

### Identification Tips

- Orange and yellow hawkweeds hybridize freely with native and non-native species, so identification is sometimes difficult. However, they do share some general characteristics:
  - \* Yellow or orange flower heads
  - \* Grow to approximately 12 inches tall
  - \* All parts of the plant contains a milky juice
  - \* Produces dandelion-like fuzzy seedheads
  - \* Leaves usually persist through flowering
  - \* Have stolons (runners) allowing for aggressive vegetative reproduction

### Biology

- Non-native herbaceous perennial
- Spreads by seeds and vegetatively through stolons
- Flowers in late spring to mid-summer
- Has fibrous root system; does well in lawns

### Impacts

- Invades pastures, rangeland and grasslands, reducing forage value of these lands for grazing
- Displaces native plants due its aggressive growth, forming monocultures
- Also inhibits other plants by producing toxic chemicals in the surrounding soil

### Distribution

- Found throughout King County, especially along roadsides, in fields and pastures and in disturbed areas
- Prefers full sun but can tolerate some shade and will grow in forest openings and cleared areas

### Questions?

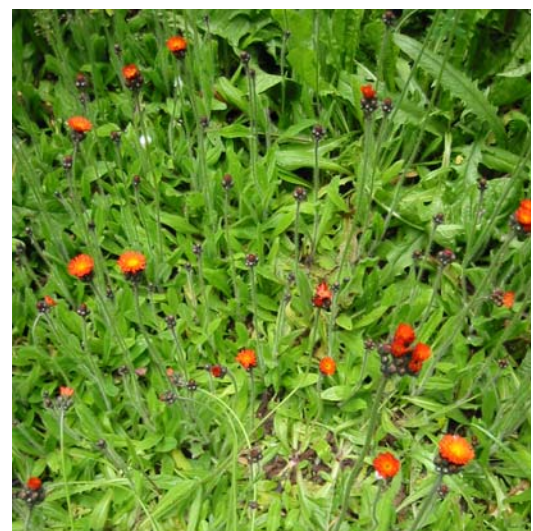
King County Noxious Weed Control  
Program Line: 206-296-0290  
[www.kingcounty.gov/weeds](http://www.kingcounty.gov/weeds)



*Yellow hawkweed*

*Orange hawkweed*

*Yellow and orange hawkweed are two of eight non-native hawkweeds on the King County Noxious Weed List. They are also the most widespread hawkweeds in the county.*



*Hawkweeds quickly take over roadsides, fields, rangelands and pastures.*

## What You Can Do

The King County Noxious Weed Control Program is actively trying to control the spread of hawkweeds. Do your part by removing this weed from your property and washing vehicles, boots and animals that have been in infested areas. If you find it growing on public lands, please report the location to our 24-hour program information line at 206-296-0290.

## Control Methods

The preferred method of control is one that incorporates a multifaceted and adaptive approach. Control methods need to be applied over several years to be successful.

**Prevention:** Most non-native hawkweeds were introduced from Europe as ornamentals, but over the years have escaped into the natural landscape. Early detection and removal is often one of the best ways to control hawkweeds. Clean vehicles and equipment that have been in areas infested with hawkweed.

**Manual:** Dig up plants in the spring or early summer when the soil is still moist and before the seeds mature.



*Care should be taken to remove the entire plant when hand-pulling.*

Plants can re-sprout from creeping stolons and rhizomes so care should be taken to completely remove the entire root system. Cutting and pulling are ineffective unless done with frequency and diligence to eliminate re-growth. If the plant is in flower, cut off the flower head, bag and dispose of it into the regular trash. Hawkweeds can form viable seeds after they are cut or dug up. **Mowing is not recommended. Mowed plants respond by quickly flowering again.**

**Mechanical:** Regular tillage will help control hawkweeds on agricultural lands. But care must be taken to pick up any stolons and rhizomes as they can quickly re-sprout.

**Chemical:** Follow labels exactly as written and only use products appropriate and legal for the site. Glyphosate (such as Roundup) is effective but is a non-selective herbicide that will also kill grasses in the area being sprayed. When using a non-selective herbicide, you must re-seed with desirable vegetation. Bare areas will re-infest from existing seed bank and any missed hawkweed plants. Triclopyr (such as Brush B Gone) is a selective herbicide that targets only broadleaf plants so it may be used in grassy areas. Treatment is most effective in the spring and early summer. Apply the herbicide to entire leaf and stem surface of actively growing plants. For more information, please contact the King County Noxious Weed Control Program.



*Pre-flowering hawkweeds have dark colored, tightly clustered flowerbuds and fine hairs on the leaves and stems.*