



# FACT SHEET

## ORANGE HAWKWEED

(*Hieracium aurantiacum*)

- Orange hawkweed grows from a few inches to two feet in height
- The hairy stems are usually leafless.
- The lance-shaped leaves that grow at the base of the plant are hairy.
- The plants produces stolons (creeping stems), the tips of which develop into new plants.
- The flower heads are clustered at the top of the stems.
- The flowers are bright orange, similar to dandelion flowers, but smaller—about an inch in diameter.
- The seeds are black, very small, with a tuft of bristles at one end.
- The entire plant contains a milky juice.
- Sunflower family



Hawkweed stolons



### LOOK ALIKES:

There are several native hawkweeds and other invasive hawkweeds, but none of them have bright orange flowers.

### DISTRIBUTION:

There are several small sites of orange hawkweed in Jefferson County, mostly on highways.

### WHY BE CONCERNED?

- Orange hawkweed aggressively competes with pasture species.
- It is unpalatable to livestock and crowds out more desirable species.
- It can spread and overtake other small ornamental plants.

**Orange hawkweed is a Class B Noxious Weed.**

**Control is required in Jefferson County.**

## ECOLOGY:

- Orange hawkweed grows mainly in pastures and on roadsides; it needs sun.
- It is an unpalatable perennial that can reproduce by seeds, stolons (stems that produce new plants) and rhizomes (underground stems).
- Most hawkweed infestations begin by seed, but once plants are established they spread by stolons or rhizomes, and can produce dense patches.

## CONTROL

### Prevention and early detection are the best means of control!

- **Do not buy or plant** orange hawkweed.
- **Avoid** introducing soil or gravel from areas known to have orange hawkweed.
- **Remove** seedlings when young because they can usually be pulled easily and they have not had an opportunity to reproduce.
- **Replant** with a desirable (preferably native) plant species, to discourage reinfestation.
- **Dispose** of weeds properly, bag or burn seed heads or fragments that may resprout.

**DIGGING** out the rosettes will remove small infestations. Care must be taken to dig out all of the root system, since even a small piece may develop into a new plant. Dispose of all plants parts carefully.

**MOWING** is not an effective long-term control method because the leaves are too low-lying to be cut by the mower. Mowing can however reduce or prevent seed production by removing flower heads.

**HERBICIDES** can be effective, but should always be applied with care. Do not apply herbicides over or near water bodies. Read the label to check that you are applying a herbicide in the right place, to the right plant, at the right time, and in the right amount. For perennial weeds, long term control requires stopping seed production **and** attacking the weed's root system. Translocated herbicides, (ones that move throughout a plant's system) are recommended. These are most effective on young, actively growing plants because the herbicide moves around the plant more quickly. Also, herbicide is more easily absorbed by clean, new leaves.

- **Note:** Most herbicides will **NOT** prevent germination of weed seeds already in the soil, so monitoring and retreatment are necessary.

**Call the Weed Board for specific herbicide advice.**

**Call if you see this plant.**