



Orange Hawkweed, Prohibited Noxious

Orange hawkweed is a member of the Aster Family native to Europe. It is a fibrous rooted, perennial herb with a milky latex in the stems and leaves. Hawkweeds reproduce by seeds and vegetatively by numerous horizontal stolons, and rhizomes underground.² Seeds are produced by apomixis – asexually.

Hawkweeds develop a low rosette of basal leaves before producing a flowering stem. Dandelion-like flowers are borne at the ends of stems. Orange hawkweed is unique among both native and introduced hawkweeds in that flowers are a fiery orange colour. All other hawkweed are yellow flowered and there is one white flowered species.

Non-native hawkweeds exhibit many characteristics of an invasive plant: high seed production and germination rates, asexual seed production, wind-dispersed seed, vegetative reproduction via rhizomes, stolons, and root fragments, and rapid growth. A few invasive hawkweed species are popular ornamentals. All of these characteristics facilitate rapid colonization and monopolizing of resources. An undetected patch of hawkweed has great potential to become an uneradicable infestation.

Orange hawkweed is a prohibited noxious alien invasive species which means that as soon as it is identified, it needs to be eliminated by such appropriate means as digging or spraying. Contact the County of Barrhead Agricultural Service Board for more information about orange hawkweed.