



Wallowa County Weed Watch

Meadow Hawkweed

Meadow hawkweed is spreading fast in Wallowa County! Be on the lookout for this aggressive European invader!

The Problem

Meadow Hawkweed takes over pastures, and forested rangelands. Hawkweed forms a solid mat of rosettes that choke out other plants.

Managers are working to keep Meadow Hawkweed from spreading in the following areas: Bear Creek in Wallowa, Grossman, Lostine, Alder Slope, the east Moraine of Wallowa Lake, Salt Creek Summit, and in Upper Big Sheep. Meadow Hawkweed has wind born seeds and spread very quickly. It is a top priority weed in Wallowa County and across Oregon state and requires aggressive treatment measures.

Identification

Meadow Hawkweed is a creeping perennial plant with fibrous roots. A rosette of leaves on the ground will have 2-8 flower stems. **Meadow Hawkweed can take root and form new plants through rhizomes (underground horizontal stems) or runners (above-ground stems - like strawberry plants do).**

Slender flower stems have terminal clusters of small dandelion-like yellow flowers. Hawkweed seeds look very similar to Dandelion seeds and are spread by wind. **Stems contain a milky sap and are usually bare of leaves.** Leaves grow at the base of the plant and are narrow, 4-6 inches long, dark green above and lighter green below.

All parts of this plant are lightly covered with fine hairs. There is a native Hawkweed that looks very similar but it is very hairy, does not have stolons or rhizomes and usually does not grow in thick patches.

Treatment

Small infestations of meadow hawkweed can be eradicated by careful and repeated digging out of the rosettes and roots. Do not scatter the roots, stolons or rhizomes: they will start new plants. Mowing is ineffective! Fertilizer can help natives out compete hawkweed. Spring treatments, with both herbicide and nitrogen fertilizer, work best. Picloram (Tordon 22k), Clopyralid (i.e. Transline, Redeem) or Aminopyralid (Milestone) should be applied after most of the basal leaves emerge, but before flower buds form. Fall treatments should also be effective for these chemicals, but research is limited.



Read and follow all label instructions when applying herbicides. Trade names have been used to simplify instructions and no endorsement or warranty is expressed or implied by the Wallowa County Weed Board or this brochure.

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