



Wallowa County Weed Watch

Orange Hawkweed

Be on the lookout for this aggressive European invader!

The Problem

Orange hawkweed takes over pastures, rangelands and timbered grasslands. Hawkweed forms a solid mat of rosettes that choke out other plants.

Orange hawkweed is not known to be in Wallowa County currently, but is found nearby in Washington and Idaho. It has invaded many counties in both Washington and Idaho and could easily spread to Wallowa County. Keep an eye out for orange hawkweed and report any sightings!

Identification

Orange hawkweed is a creeping perennial plant with fibrous (not tap) roots. A rosette of ground leaves will have 2-8 flower stems and cord-like runners called stolons. Stolons are stems that grow over the ground, take root and form new plants (like strawberry plants). Leaves are narrow, 4-6 inches long, dark green above and lighter green below

Orange hawkweed is easily distinguished from other hawkweeds by its red-orange flowers. Slender flower stems have terminal clusters of these small dandelion-like flowers. Hawkweed seeds look very similar to dandelion seeds and are spread by wind. Stems contain a milky sap. All parts of this plant are lightly covered with fine hairs.

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 or stolons: 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) or Clopyralid (i.e. Transline, Redeem) products 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.



Clusters of red-orange flowers develop dandelion-like windblown seeds.



Leaves and stems lightly covered in fine hairs; windblown seeds; matt of rosettes.

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.

For more information or to report weed sites call:

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