ORANGE HAWKWEED

Hieracium aurantiacum L.

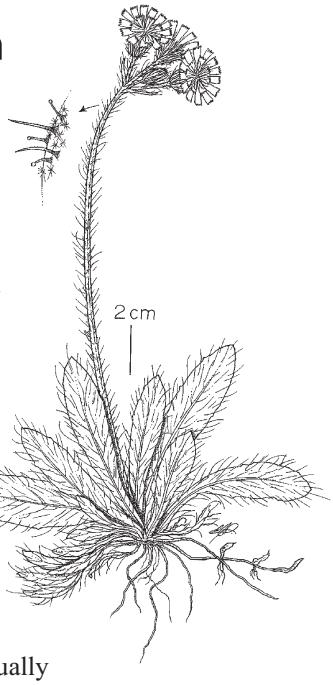
Family: *Asteraceae* (Sunflower).

Other Scientific Names: None.

Other Common Names: Orange-red king devil, devil's paintbrush.

Legal Status: Regional Noxious: Bulkley-Nechako, Cariboo, Central Kootenay, Columbia-Shuswap, East Kootenay, Thompson-Nicola.

Identification



Growth form: Perennial forb.

Flower: Flowering heads are clustered at the top of the leafless stems and have orange to red petal-like ray flowers with notched tips.

Seeds/Fruit: Achenes are about 2 mm long, dark brown or black, have ridges and bristly plumes.

Leaves: Leaves are mostly basal, spatulate-shaped, and covered with stiff hairs.

Stems: Stems are erect, usually solitary with stiff hairs (at the base) and 0.3–1.2 m tall (Douglas et al. 1998).

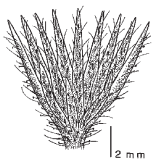
Roots: Fibrous root system with a woody stem base. Stolons root at nodes.

Seedling: Seedling leaves have bristly hairs.

Other: Plants contain milky juice.

Similar Species

Exotics: There are 14 hawkweeds in BC, but only orange hawkweed has orange flowers. All other native and exotic hawkweeds have either white or yellow flowers. The yellow flowered hawkweed (*Hieracium pilosella*) is similar but occurs only rarely in the south of the province.



Natives: See above.

Impacts

Agricultural: Hawkweed is not normally competitive with crop species in the US (Callihan et al. 1997); its impact on agricultural crops in BC is unknown.

Ecological: Although new populations of orange hawkweed likely originate from seeds, established populations expand largely through vegetative growth by stolons. Patches can expand quickly, producing dense mats of rosettes (Callihan et al. 1997).

Human: No information available.

Habitat and Ecology

General requirements: Orange hawkweed grows in the province at low- to mid-elevations, usually on open areas such as pastures, meadows, clearings, roadsides, and disturbed sites. It appears best adapted to well-drained, coarse-textured soils (Wilson et al. 1997) that are often acidic (Frankton and Mulligan 1970).

Distribution: Scattered and locally abundant in BC south of 55° N and is regarded as a major concern in the Kootenay, Okanagan, Thompson, Cariboo, Omineca, and Peace River agricultural reporting regions. Orange hawkweed is established and spreading rapidly in northern Idaho, northeastern

Washington, and northwestern Montana (Wilson and Callihan 1999).

Historical: Introduced from Europe.

Life cycle: Perennial plants that form rosettes in spring and early summer and spread primarily by stolons. Plants flower in June–July and quickly produce seed. Plants overwinter as rhizomes and regrow the next spring (Wilson et al. 1997).

Mode of reproduction: By seed, stolons, and rhizomes.

Seed production: Flowering stem may produce several hundred seeds.

Seed bank: No information available.

Dispersal: Believed to be spread primarily by recreationists, pack animals, and hay. Although seeds are plumed, they are not widely dispersed by wind (Wilson et al. 1997).

Hybridization: No information available.

Management

Biocontrol: None currently available. BC supports an international Hawkweed Biocontrol Consortium currently researching the potential for biological control.

Mechanical: Hand-pull small infestations but take care not to scatter roots and stolons. Mowing prevents seed production but encourages increased vegetative reproduction.

Fire: No information available.

Herbicides: Picloram and picloram plus 2,4-D provide excellent control in BC when applied to actively growing plants in spring and early summer. Spring applications of dicamba are recommended for turf and lawns (Callihan et al. 1997). Consult the most recent edition of BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Crop Production Guides for specific recommendations. **Before applying herbicides, read the label for full use and precautionary instructions.**

Cultural/Preventive: Prevent the establishment of new infestations by minimizing disturbance and seed dispersal, eliminating seed production, and maintaining healthy native communities.

Integrated Management Summary

Integrated management strategies should focus on detecting and eradicating infestations as early as possible and on implementing land use practices that promote a continuous cover of perennial vegetation.

References

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