

Orange Hawkweed



flower



leaves



seeds

Orange Hawkweed

Genus: Hieracium
Species: aurantiacum
Priority Listing: 2A
Perennial

Orange hawkweed is native to alpine regions of Europe and was introduced into the United States as an **ornamental** due to its showy bright red to orange flowers. Orange hawkweed **inhabits** disturbed areas such as roadsides, gravel pits, and overgrazed pastures. Orange hawkweed can also invade meadows and forested areas as well as habitats in higher elevations. Orange hawkweed is a protected plant in the Alps of Europe.

Orange hawkweed is a member of the sunflower family and produces shallow, **fibrous** roots. The stem of this species is usually leafless or can have one or two small leaves; stems grow to a height of 12" and are covered with stiff black hairs called trichomes. There can be 2 to 25 flower heads present on each stem. Flowers are bright red to orange; each flower is 1/2" to 1" in diameter and petals are notched at the tips.

Leaves form a **basal rosette**, are oblong or lance shaped, and measure about 4 1/2" in length. Every part of this plant exudes a milky white substance when clipped.

Basal: leaves situated at the base of a plant, may look different than the plant's other leaves

Fibrous: containing strong fibers

Herbicide: a chemical substance used to kill or destroy plants, likely to be used on weeds

Inhabits: to live in, reside in, or be present in

Ornamental: a plant that serves a purpose for ornament, or is grown for show

Perennial: a plant whose life spans several years

Orange hawkweed patches expand by **stolons**, like strawberry plants. Seeds are mainly produced at the patch perimeters, and are tiny, ridged, dark brown or black in color, and have bristly plumes. These bristly plumes, called **pappus**, assist in transportation of seeds. The plume allows the seed a mode of transportation to be wind-dispersed and relocated to new areas.

Orange hawkweed is difficult to control because it can reproduce through various methods.



Photo courtesy of Robert L. Carr, University of Oregon

Pappus: a group of flower sepals which have feather or hair-like qualities, like a dandelion seed

Rosettes: circular clusters of leaves that radiate from a center of a plant, close to the ground, like the dandelion

Stolon: a plant shoot that bends to the ground or that grows horizontally above the ground and produces roots and shoots at the nodes