

## Orange hawkweed

### *Hieracium aurantiacum*

#### Description

Introduced to North America as an ornamental for desirable flame-colored flowers.

#### Habit

Fibrous rooted perennial, grows 10-36 in tall and branching at the top to produce flowerheads.

#### Leaves

Simple, basal, 1-2 leaves measuring about 4.5 in long, covered with hairs.

#### Stems

Erect, does not have stem leaves, contain a milky juice and are covered with stiff hairs.

#### Flowers

Conspicuous, orange-red in color, ray flowers, 5-35 flowerheads; blooms June through September.

#### Fruits and Seeds

Each flower produces 12-30 tiny seeds that are dark brown or black in color, cylindrical,





elongated, longitudinally ridged, barbed and bristled. Dispersed by wind, water, or "hitch-hiking". Viable in soil for up to 7 years.

### **Habitat**

Native to Europe. Found in urban sites, moist meadows, pastures, hay fields, roadsides, gravel pits, forested areas, tree plantations and riparian areas.

### **Reproduction**

By seed and vegetatively. Roots are shallow and fibrous with aboveground stolons and below ground rhizomes that allow for aggressive vegetative reproduction. Stolons originate from buds in the rosette when plants flower. Runners radiate out from the original plant and form new rosettes when they touch down and take root.

### **Similar**

Meadow Hawkweed (*Hieracium caespitosum*); Tall Hawkweed (*Hieracium piloselloides*).

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Mowing reduces seed production, but encourages vegetative spread. Hand pull or dig up small infestations, removing roots and rhizomes. Effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as 2,4-D or dicamba before bloom.

### **Credits**

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