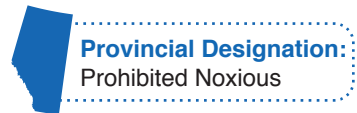




Meadow Hawkweed

Hieracium caespitosum syn. *H. pratense* (Aka Mouse-ear Hawkweed - *H. pilosella*, and Yellow Devil Hawkweed - *H. floribundum*)



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Overview:

Meadow hawkweed is a perennial, native to all parts of Europe. It reproduces both by seed and vegetatively. The species listed above are a complex of closely related hawkweed species (includes Orange hawkweed *H. auranticum*) which may hybridize. Hawkweeds are believed to be introduced for ornamental and/or herbal purposes. They are capable of rapid vegetative reproduction which quickly forms monocultures with dense, shallow, fibrous root masses. Meadow hawkweed first forms a rosette of basal leaves after germination and a root system with mycorrhizal fungi associations and can rob those fungal associations from other plants. It then quickly matures to bloom mid-summer and to produce viable seed (about 2 months).

Meadow hawkweed is capable of high seed production and germination rates and can produce fertile seed without sexual reproduction. Seeds have a pappus for windborne dispersal. It is also strongly vegetatively reproductive - new plants can arise from root bud, root fragments, rhizomes or stolons.

All parts of the plant are usually bristly hairy, but may be hairless.

Habitat:

Meadow hawkweed is adapted to a broad latitudinal and ecological range (Alaska to Nevada, northern Quebec to Florida). It grows in well-drained, coarse textured soils, in full sun but can tolerate partial shade. It prefers mesic moisture regimes and low nutrient, low organic matter nutrient regimes.¹ It is a strong post-fire invader.

Identification:

Stems: Are erect, generally un-branched, hairy, contain a milky juice and grow 20 to 70 cm tall. Stolons may be short or inconspicuous.¹

Leaves: Are narrow to broadly elliptic to ovate, mostly basal, and mostly sessile.² Color is bright green to yellow-green and margins are entire or minutely toothed.¹ Both surfaces are hairy and can be a combination of stellate (star-shaped) and long, single

hairs.¹

Flowers: Yellow ray flowers, sometimes red striped,¹ occurring few to many in compact flat to round-topped clusters (cyme.) Involucral bracts can be hairy or hairless. Seeds/achenes are ribbed with a white/tawny pappus.¹ Flowers can mature from closed bud to seed within a day.¹

Prevention:

Meadow hawkweed requires some disturbance to establish but can easily invade plant communities once established. Stolon and roots fragments can produce a new plant.

Control:

Grazing: Not known. Invasive plants should never be considered as forage.

Cultivation: Intense, repeated cultivation in crop situations may effectively control these hawkweeds.² Fertilization can increase desirable grass competition in non-grazing situations.¹

Mechanical: Mowing can prevent seed

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Meadow Hawkweed (Continued)

formation but strongly induces vegetative growth so this is not a viable control option.² Hand pulling would only be effective on small patches in loose soils where nearly all of the root system could be removed. Repetition would be necessary to remove any new plants that sprouted from missed root/stolon pieces. All plant debris should be disposed of in landfill-bound garbage.

Chemical: Hexazinone is registered for use on Hieracium spp. Always check product labels to ensure the herbicide is registered for use on the target plant in Canada by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. Always read and follow label directions. Consult your local Agricultural Fieldman or Certified Pesticide Dispenser for more information.

Biological: An authorization to release the Orange hawkweed gall wasp *Aulacidea subterminalis* in the U.S. and Canada was issued February 2011. A search for possible agents is currently underway by CABI and is funded by the Hawkweed Biocontrol Consortium³.



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REFERENCES

- 1 Wilson, Linda M. 2006. Key to Identification of Invasive and Native Hawkweeds (*Hieracium* spp.) in the Pacific Northwest. B.C. Min. For. Range, For. Prac.Br., Kamloops, B.C..
- 2 <http://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/weeds/BMPs/hawkweed-control.pdf>
- 3 <http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/hawkweed/index.html>