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## ORANGE HAWKWEED MANAGEMENT TIPS

Orange hawkweed, a member of the Sunflower family, is a perennial plant that reproduces by seeds, stolons, and rhizomes, similar to strawberry plants. The long, narrow leaves are dark green above and lighter green below, and form basal rosettes. Rosettes produce up to 25 flowering stems which can reach 3 feet tall. Stems have very few (three or less) leaves and are covered with short stiff hairs. The entire plant contains a milky colored sap. Flower heads are red-orange petals with notched tips. Each stem can produce as many as 5-30 flower heads. Each flower head can produce 25-30 seeds which have dandelion like hairs that are adapted to wind travel. **Seed longevity is 7 years.** This plant is capable of forming extremely dense mats (up to 3200 rosettes/sq yard) which choke out all other vegetation.



**Management and control efforts must be planned for several consecutive growing seasons at the existing site in order to prevent seed formation/dispersal and to monitor for, and appropriately treat, any new plants that emerge.**

**Control measures that have been found to be effective for the management of orange hawkweed include:**

- 1. Mechanical treatment (hand-pulling & digging):** These methods can be effective when there are small infestations, and are most effective from when the plant has bolted up to the early flowering stage. The entire root, rosette and all stolons must be removed to prevent the plant from re-growing. Always place flowering plants in bags to prevent seed dispersal. Be sure to return to the area to monitor for any new plants that have emerged. Also, be sure to wear gloves when hand-pulling or digging plants.
- 2. Herbicide treatment: Be sure to always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** Be sure your equipment is calibrated so that you can add the proper amount to your tank. The following herbicides are commonly used to control orange hawkweed.

**Mixing rates in small backpack or hand sprayers are as follows:**

Milestone: 2/3 – 3/4 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water  
GrazonNext HL: 1 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water  
\*Opensight: 1/2 – 2/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water

**Rates in large sprayers are as follows:**

Milestone: 5 - 7 oz herbicide per acre  
GrazonNext HL: 1 quart herbicide per acre  
\*Opensight1: 2.5 – 3.3 oz herbicide per acre

**NOTE:** Be sure to add a surfactant to your tank mix, which will enhance the performance of your herbicide and is required for certain herbicides (read the label). (0.5 - 1 oz per gallon of water for backpack sprayers or 1 – 2 pints per 100 gallons for large sprayers)

**\* denotes that a surfactant is required for the herbicide to be effective**

For the most effective control: Apply herbicides in the rosette stage up to the flowering stage or in the fall after re-growth has occurred.

- 3. Cultural (revegetation):** Revegetation is an important management practice on disturbed sites. Hawkweeds are not very shade tolerant. Seeding of competitive plants along with herbicide applications will reduce the competitiveness of hawkweed during establishment of the desirable plants. Fertilizer should also be included to increase the competitiveness of desirable seeded species.
- 4. Integrated management:** Management of hawkweed is more effective when more than one management strategy is used.

**Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply discrimination or endorsement by the Gallatin County Weed Department.**