



Hieracium subgenus Pilosella

WA – Class B Noxious Weed, Prohibited Plant List

Non-Native Hawkweeds

OR – Class A & B Noxious Weed

Yellow, Mouse-ear, Kingdevil & Yellowdevil

Family: Asteraceae

Origins: Native to Europe, it began to invade the Pacific Northwest within the last 70 years.

Range: Found throughout much of the United States and Canada.

Habitat: Commonly found in mountain meadows, forest clearings, pastures, farmlands, and roadsides. Hawkweed prefers well-drained, coarse soils low in nutrients.

Impact: Hawkweed spreads rapidly from seeds and stolons, forming dense mats. The mats form monocultures that reduce biodiversity and native forage species.

Yellow Devil, Yellow Hawkweed, and Orange Hawkweed are three of only six known pollen allelopathic plants. The pollen released from their flowers discharge toxins that inhibit the seed germination, seedling emergence, saprophytic growth, or reproduction of surrounding plants¹.

Description: Hawkweeds are perennial fibrous-rooted, herbaceous plants. Stems are erect and exude a milky sap when broken. Flower heads are yellow with phyllaries (bracts) covered hairs.

Yellow Hawkweed (*H. caespitosum*), also called Meadow Hawkweed, grows 7 to 20 inches tall. Stems are hairy and usually leafless, although occasionally, they may have 1 to 2 leaves near the midpoint. Basal leaves are bright to yellow-green and hairy on both sides. Flower heads can reach 0.5 inches wide and grow in compact flat, dense clusters of 20 to 50 at stem tips. Flowers usually bloom from May to July, depending on elevation.

Mouse-ear Hawkweed (*H. pilosella*) has a hairy, leafless, unbranched solitary stem that grows 3 to 10 inches tall. Basal leaves are dark green on top, whitish on the bottom, egg-shaped with a white midvein, and hairy on both sides. Flower heads are solitary at stem tips and typically bloom from May to June, depending on elevation.

Yellow Devil Hawkweed (*H. glomeratum*) has a hairy, mostly leafless stem that grows 9 to 35 inches tall. Basal leaves are bright green to yellow-green and have short hairs on both sides, giving them a rough texture. Flower heads grow in an open, round-topped cluster of 15 to 25 at stem tips. Lacks stolons.

Kingdevil Hawkweed (*H. floribundum*) has a hairy, mostly leafless stem that grows 12 to 24 inches tall. Basal leaves are dark green and lance-shaped with a waxy coating. Upper leaf surfaces are smooth but may have some hairs; below, the leaves have hairs along the midrib and leaf edges. Flower heads grow in loose open clusters of 15-25 at stem tips. Ray petals are square-tipped, from 0.5 to 1 inch long. Blooms from June to August, depending on elevation.

Common Look-Alikes: Native and non-native Hawkweed species, Dandelion, Common Catsear.

* *Hawkweed species are not known to be toxic.*



¹Murphy, Stephen D. "The Role of Pollen Allelopathy in Weed Ecology." *Weed Technology*, vol. 15, no. 4, 2001, pp. 867–872. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/3988569. Accessed 11 Feb. 2021.

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Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) combines various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. For more information, see the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed's IPM Resources & Strategy Guide or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

Non-Herbicide Control

Mechanical (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.)	Scattered plants in lawns can be spaded out below the crown in early spring or as soon as the leaves appear. Mowing is not effective as plants will send up shorter stems and quickly flower again. Plants will also put more energy into spreading by stolons, and the infestation size and density will increase.
Cultural	Adding fertilizer and managing soil fertility has been used to effectively control Hawkweed species in some areas, especially where populations are small or new.
Biological	Biological agents are currently not available for Hawkweed species in Washington State.

Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment

2,4-D (Many Trade Names)	Timing: Apply to actively growing plants before buds form. Remarks: Annual treatments needed to control seedlings; avoid drift to sensitive crops; surfactant recommended; do not apply near water; use with a non-ionic surfactant.
Clopyralid (Transline, Stinger)	Timing: Apply after most basal leaves emerge but before buds form. Fall treatments are not effective. Remarks: Product will injure or kill sensitive broadleaf forages; consult the label for crop rotation restrictions before use; several crops may be injured for several years after application; do not apply near water.
Aminopyralid (Milestone)	Timing: Apply to actively growing plants in the bolting stage of growth. Fall treatments are not effective. Remarks: Many forbs can be seriously injured or killed; using a non-ionic surfactant will help enhance control under adverse conditions; do not apply near the root zone of desirable trees; do not use compost plant material that has been sprayed by this product; do not use manure from fields that have been sprayed with this product; do not apply near water.
Clopyralid + 2,4-D amine (Curtail)	Timing: Apply after most basal leaves emerge but before buds form. Fall treatments are not effective. Remarks: For best results, wait at least 20 days after application before disturbing treated areas (cultivation, mowing, fertilization with shank-type applicators) to allow thorough translocation; may damage crops; do not apply near water. <i>*Excludes Mouse-ear Hawkweed</i>
Dicamba* (Banvel, Clarity)	Timing: Apply to growing hawkweed before flowering. Remarks: Repeat applications may be necessary; avoid drift to sensitive crops; Dicamba severely injures or kills most broadleaf plants; grass tolerates Dicamba; do not apply near water. <i>*Excludes Mouse-ear Hawkweed</i>

* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**

This control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB), nwcb.wa.gov. Herbicide information from the PNW Weed Management Handbook (ISBN 978-1-931979-22-1) and product labels.