



# HAWKWEEDS

*Hieracium, subgenus hieracium*  
*Hieracium, subgenus pilosella*



Mouse-ear hawkweed

- \* All non-native hawkweeds in Pierce County are classed into two groups listed by subgenus; Meadow subgenus (*pilosella*), or Wall subgenus (*hieracium*)
- \* Yellow Devil hawkweed and European hawkweed are listed as Class A noxious weed and must be eradicated.
- \* Mouse-ear, polar, queen-devil, smooth and yellow hawkweeds are listed as Class B designates and must be controlled.
- \* Hawkweeds are all perennials from the Asteraceae Family they are prolific seed producers and are weedy and capable of hybridizing with native and non-native species.

\* Hawkweeds are hairy plants with stalked clusters of yellow flowers consisting of only spatula-shaped ray petals. Each ray petal is tipped with 3 to 5 notched teeth. Flower heads are joined to the hairy stems by leafy bracts. Plants have rosettes of strap, or lance-shaped leaves at the base of the stem. Basal leaves of most non-native hawkweed usually persist through flowering.

\* Meadow hawkweeds (*pilosella*) spread by seeds and vegetatively by stolons, rhizomes, and auxiliary buds from root crowns. They also produce viable seed without pollination. Wall hawkweeds (*Hieracium*) reproduce only by seed.

\* The creeping growth of Meadow hawkweed fills in the gaps between plants and form mats of rosettes which prevent other plants from establishing seedlings. Wall hawkweeds do not have stolons and grow from a single root base.

\* Yellow Devil and Yellow hawkweed are two of only six known pollen allelopathic plants. The pollen released from their flowers discharge toxins that inhibit the seed germination, seedling emergence, and saprophytic growth of surrounding plants.

\* Hawkweeds prefer full sun, or partial shade. They infest meadows, roadsides and fields and are especially invasive on poorer acidic soils that are well drained and coarsely textured. They are aggressive competitors for pasture, range and native plant species.





- \* Most hawkweeds start flowering in May, or early June. Plants usually start seeding in July, but continue to flower and go to seed through September. Some species bloom later in the summer, as do hawkweeds at higher elevations.

#### CONTROL OPTIONS

- \* Early detection and eradication are important to prevent the spread of hawkweed. As usual with invasive species, the best control is prevention. Prevent plants from going to seed.
  - \* Hand pulling, or digging up isolated plants and small patches can help control hawkweed. Be aware that this noxious weed can reproduce from small root fragments, so it is important to get the whole root. Monitor the site where plants have been dug out for possible re-growth. Bag and dispose of all plants materials in the trash. Do not compost.
- 
- \* 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.
  - \* Treatment with nitrogen will help other grasses to competitively suppress hawkweed growth.
  - \* *Triclopyr* (Brush-B-Gon, Garlon 3A, Turflon II) is very effective on most hawk-weeds. Apply to actively growing plants, from spring to early summer before plants are fully in flower. Adding a surfactant is recommended.
  - \* Spot spraying with an herbicide containing the active ingredient *glyphosate* (Roundup Pro, Glyfos, etc.) may be used effectively in the spring while the plant is in the pre-bud to early bud growth stage. The goal is to insure all plants have emerged. Be aware, *glyphosate* is non-selective and will injure any plants that it comes in contact with, including grass.
  - \* For selective control of hawkweed in agricultural settings (pastures, hayfields, etc.), an herbicide containing the active ingredient *aminopyralid* (example: Milestone, Milestone VM, etc.) may be applied in the spring to plants in the pre-bud to early bud growth stage. It is also effective in the fall before a killing frost. *Aminopyralid* products will not harm grass and can be used around livestock provided all label precautions are followed.

