

WEED OF THE WEEK- ORANGE HAWKWEEED

Identification

Thought to have been introduced as an ornamental plant, Orange Hawkweed is a perennial that reproduces from seed and stolons (much like a strawberry). The plant is very hairy with leaves mostly occurring at the base of the plant.

Flower

Orange Hawkweed flowers are hard to miss. Bright orange with a lighter centre, the petals are square at the edges and toothed. One flower will produce 10-25 seeds and between 5 and 30 flower heads are typically found on one plant.

Leaves

Mostly basal leaves with the odd stem leaf. Leaf much longer than wide, with widest point usually at middle. Leaf comes to a rounded point. Leaves moderately hairy.

Stem

The stem of the plant contains a milky sap and is usually leafless. Grows up to 15-60 cm in height

Control

This plant can grow in a wide variety of environments but prefers well-drained soils. The many adaptations of Orange Hawkweed make it a plant of great concern. This invasive plant is listed in the Alberta Weed Control Act as a Prohibited Noxious Weed. Please call Westlock County Agriculture Services at 780-349-3346 ext. 280 for identification and recommendations.

