



FACT SHEET

Orange hawkweed *Pilosella aurantiaca* subsp. *aurantiaca*

ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT

Orange hawkweed is an aggressive, invasive daisy, listed at a national level as both an environmental alert weed and agricultural sleeper weed. It poses a real threat to native alpine and sub-alpine vegetation and is also capable of invading pasture. If left untreated, orange hawkweed can outcompete other grasses and herbs, eventually dominating local ecosystems.

Early detection and control of orange hawkweed provides the most cost effective opportunity for long term control.

IN TASMANIA

The most serious threat to the natural values of Australia's alpine ecosystems is the expanding range and numbers of exotic plants and animals.

Alpine and sub-alpine environments, like those found on kunanyi/Mt Wellington, are particularly vulnerable to orange hawkweed, which can take over sensitive, diverse and fragile environments that are of great significance for nature conservation and catchment protection for high quality water.

In Tasmania, orange hawkweed is a declared weed under the *Biosecurity Act 2019*. The Tasmanian Government's Statutory Management Plan for orange hawkweed requires that it be eradicated from the City of Hobart municipality.

It is only found in two municipalities in Tasmania – Hobart and the Central Highlands – and is present in small enough numbers that there is a good chance of eradication.



**REPORT IT
ONLINE**

Scan the QR code or visit
hobartcity.com.au/ohw



IDENTIFICATION

Orange hawkweed can be identified by its multiple clusters of orange flowers, hairy stems and long simple hairs on upper and lower surfaces of the leaves. The leaves form a rosette, with the flower stem rising up like a dandelion. It is in flower from December to January.

Orange hawkweed closely resembles the common lawn weeds dandelion and hawkbit but is far more invasive and can dominate pasture and native grasslands, excluding native vegetation. The plant sends out stolons (like strawberry runners). Its light seeds can be blown many kilometres, so that even a single plant poses significant risk of spreading.

FACT SHEET Continued

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CONTROL METHODS

Small number of plants

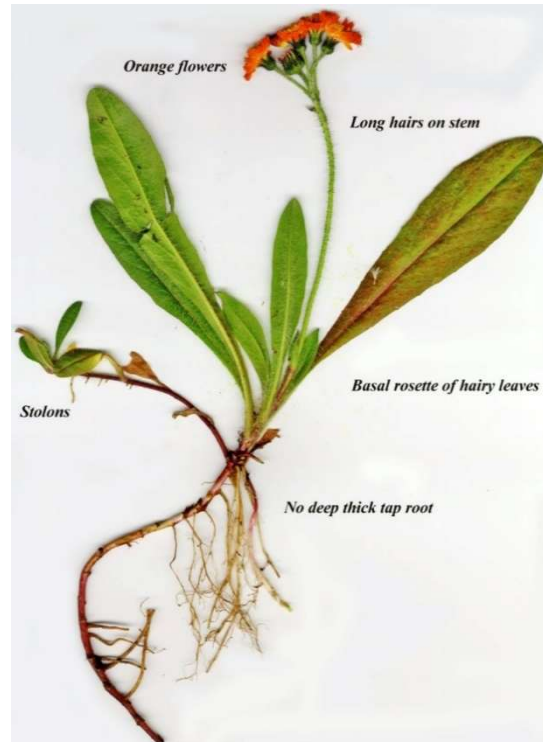
1. Using a registered herbicide is the most effective treatment for controlling orange hawkweed. When hand weeding small infestations, it is crucial to remove the entire plant, including roots and runners (stolons).
WARNING: The shallow rooted stolons can easily break during removal, causing the infestation to spread. Each hawkweed plant can produce four to eight stolons, with each runner potentially extending up to 25cm in length. To prevent further spread, double bag all removed plant material and dispose of it in a regular rubbish bin.
2. For isolated plants, applying a herbicide gel (containing glyphosate) directly to the leaves when actively growing can be an effective and targeted method. The gel ensures the herbicide stays on the plant without affecting nearby plants. This method minimises the risk of herbicide drift or runoff, making it suitable for lawns and sensitive areas. These products can be found at hardware stores or garden supply centres.

Large number of plants

3. For larger infestations, products containing the selective herbicide clopyralid are effective in controlling orange hawkweed while preserving surrounding grasses. This herbicide specifically targets broadleaf weeds and is a recommended option for treating large infestations of orange hawkweed. For best results, we recommend these products be applied by a qualified weed contractor. Contact us for a list of preferred contractors.

Follow-up control

Because of its resilience, orange hawkweed requires follow-up control at the same time of year for a minimum of eight years. Set reminders and mark your calendar to stay on top of management efforts. Retain this fact sheet for future reference.



What to do if you have orange hawkweed on your property

If you identify orange hawkweed on your property it is important to report it immediately to the City of Hobart. You can do this through our website. We can provide assistance with identifying and managing infestations, including professional treatment options.

Visit hobartcity.com.au/hawkweed to report orange hawkweed on your property.

Preventing its spread

To prevent orange hawkweed from spreading, do not disturb the site unnecessarily, especially when the plant is in flower or producing seed heads. Avoid mowing or disturbing the area when seeds are likely to be airborne. Additionally, do not allow animals to walk through the site - they can carry seeds to new locations. Containing the site and minimising movement around infested areas will help reduce the risk of spread.

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