



# FACT SHEET

## Orange hawkweed *Pilosella aurantiaca* subsp. *aurantiaca*

### ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT

Orange hawkweed is an aggressive invasive daisy, with legislated status at a national level as both an environmental alert weed and an 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/Mount 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 *Weed Management Act 1999*. The State 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.

### IDENTIFICATION

Orange hawkweed can be identified by its multiple clusters of orange flowers, hairy stems and long simple hairs scattered on both the upper and lower surfaces of the leaves. The oblanceolate-shaped leaves form a basal 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 the runners on a strawberry). Its light seeds can be blown many kilometres, so that even a single plant poses significant risk.



Orange hawkweed in flower

# FACT SHEET Continued

## Orange hawkweed *Pilosella aurantiaca* subsp. *aurantiaca*

### CONTROL METHODS

#### Small number of plants

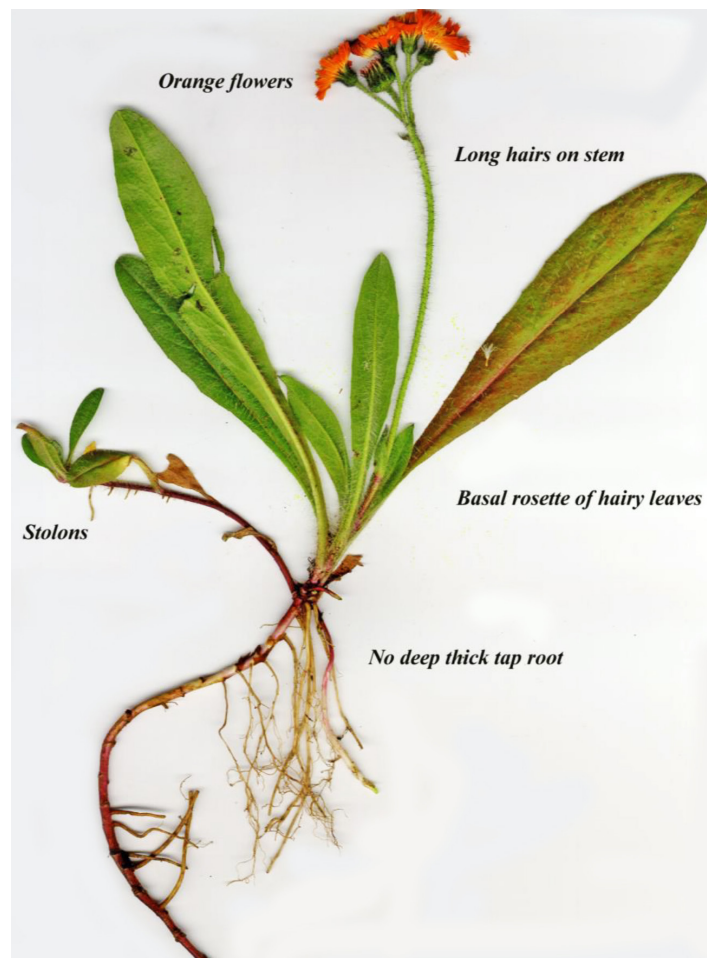
1. Selective hand-weeding with a forked hand tool can be effective for small infestations. Ensure the whole plant, including roots and runners, are removed as orange hawkweed can quickly regrow if any fragments of snapped stolons (runners) are left behind. Be careful when removing flowers and seed heads so that seeds are not accidentally dispersed. All flower and seed head material should be burned (not in the open).
2. The herbicide Weed and Feed will target orange hawkweed (and other broadleaf daisies) without harming surrounding lawn. For best results carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions. Weed and Feed is an easy, ready-to-go option available at supermarkets and hardware stores.

#### Large number of plants

3. The application of concentrated herbicides such as MCPA, Dicamba or a combination of the two, such as Kamba M, will target orange hawkweed without harming grasses and lawn. However, as these are more concentrated and specialised herbicides, **application by a qualified weed contractor is recommended**. Please contact us for a list of preferred contractors who are able to correctly identify and treat orange hawkweed.

#### What to do if you have orange hawkweed on your property

Orange hawkweed will require follow-up control around the same time of year for eight years or more. Set a reminder in your phone. Mark it on the calendar and keep this leaflet for future reference.



The full plant, including flowers, leaves and root

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