



**Orange
hawkweed**



Orange hawkweed

(*Hieracium aurantiacum* L.)

Orange hawkweed is a herbaceous perennial with spatula-shaped leaves that contain a milky sap. In the vegetative state, the plants appear as basal rosettes with 4- to 6-inch long leaves, which are dark green above and light green below and quite pubescent. Each rosette is capable of producing 10 to 30 flowering stems that grow up to 12 inches tall. Stems have short, stiff hairs and one to three small, clasping leaves. The flowers are 0.5 to 0.75 inch in diameter and arranged in a flat-topped cluster. Seeds are very small, black and have a tawny tuft of bristles on the flattened end. The plant spreads primarily by runners (like strawberries) and rhizomes, and to new sites by seed.

Orange hawkweed is very aggressive and develops large, dense patches. Livestock and wildlife will graze orange hawkweed but continuous grazing actually leads to increased hawkweed density. Orange hawkweed is a severe problem in northern Minnesota and the Pacific Northwest.

