Reporting hawkweeds

DPI aims to prevent State prohibited weeds from being introduced into Victoria and to detect and eradicate any infestations before they become widespread.

DPI manages these species on all land in Victoria, at no cost to the land owner.

If you suspect you may have seen hawkweeds please contact DPI immediately.

Phone - 136 186
Email - weed.spotters@dpi.vic.gov.au

Please do not attempt to control or dispose of hawkweeds yourself.

If you would like to receive this information/publication in an accessible format (such as large print or audio) please call the Customer Service Centre on 136 186, TTY 1800 122 969, or email customer.service@dpi.vic.gov.au.

Published by: Department of Primary Industries, Biosecurity Victoria, Invasive Plants and Animals Operations Branch, September 2012.

© The State of Victoria, 2012
This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968.

Authors: Australian Government, 1 Spring Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia
ISBN 978-1-74226-196-1 (print)
ISBN 978-1-74226-287-6 (online)


Disclaimer
This publication may be of assistance to you but the Department of Agriculture Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

For more information about DPI go to www.dpi.vic.gov.au or please the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.
Hawkweed
Hieracium species

The entire Hieracium genus, containing over 700 hawkweed species is declared State prohibited under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CalP Act).

Hawkweeds are native to the northern hemisphere. They create significant environmental problems in New Zealand, the United States, Canada, Japan and Patagonia, especially at high altitudes.

Hawkweeds can grow over an extremely wide range of temperatures and altitudes and can tolerate a range of conditions - gravel or acidic soils, full sun, part shade, frost or snow. They thrive in overgrazed pastures and are a particular problem at higher altitudes where they out compete native plants and replace natural ecosystems. Hawkweeds are allelopathic - they emit chemicals which inhibit the growth of other plants nearby.

Three species of hawkweed have naturalised to a limited extent in Victoria's Alps. DPI still receives reports of hawkweed in gardens around Victoria.

King devil hawkweed
Hieracium praealtum

King devil hawkweed is a small herb with daisy like flowers. The erect leaves are blue-green with long blackish hairs on the margins and surfaces, and are lance shaped (i.e. are broader towards the tip). They are up to 150 mm long and arranged in a rosette close to the ground. The stems contain milky sap and are covered in short, stiff hairs.

The yellow flowers appear in spring to summer, have square-ended petals, 20 mm in diameter, and grow in clusters of up to 25 on red tinged stems 15 – 45 cm high. King devil hawkweed can spread from seed, above ground runners (stolons) or by root fragments.

Mouse-ear hawkweed
Hieracium pilosella

Mouse-ear hawkweed is a perennial, low-growing species with daisy like flowers. Leaves are blue-green with scattered hairs above and downy white hairs below. They are widest in the middle, 150 mm long and arranged in a rosette close to the ground. The stems contain milky sap and are covered in short, stiff hairs.

The yellow flowers appear in spring and summer, have square-ended petals, often with a red stripe on the outer face. The flowers are 30 mm in diameter and grow solitary on 25 cm high stalks. Mouse-ear hawkweed can spread from seed or by root fragments.

Orange hawkweed
Hieracium aurantiacum

Orange hawkweed is a small herb with daisy like flowers and is one of the most common Hieracium species. It has hairy green lance shaped leaves to 150 mm long, arranged in a rosette close to the ground. The stems contain milky sap and are covered in short, stiff hairs.

The bright orange flowers appear in summer, have square-ended petals, 15 mm in diameter. The flowers grow in clusters of five or more on 20 cm tall stalks. Orange hawkweed can spread from seed, above ground runners (stolons) or by root fragments.