

State Priority Weed

Orange Hawkweed

Pilosella aurantiaca

Orange hawkweed is Prohibited Matter in NSW. Suspected sightings must be reported immediately.

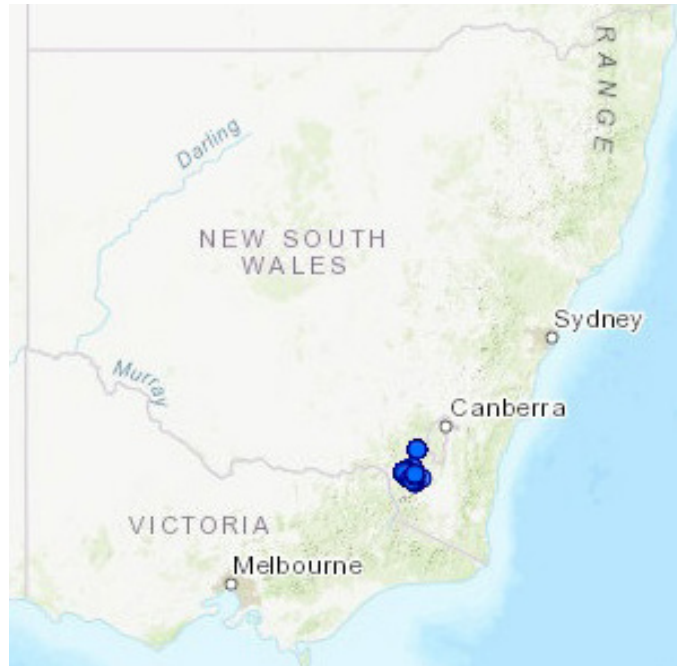
Help us find and control this invasive weed.

Why is Orange hawkweed a problem?

Orange hawkweed is a highly invasive species with allelopathic qualities which enable it to quickly outcompete other plants and form dense monocultures comprising thousands of plants per square metre.

It is a significant threat to biodiversity in Alpine regions and will outcompete native grasses and reduce pasture productivity. Orange hawkweed is readily grazed by stock however it is very low growing so difficult for most stock to graze. It thrives on low fertility soil and spreads locally by stolons and over long distances by wind.

The only known infestations of orange hawkweed within the state of NSW are situated within Kosciuszko National Park to the west of Snowy Plains and in some isolated pockets on private land at Snowy Plains. Regular surveillance and control efforts have been implemented by Council, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, and private landowners to ensure the best possible chance of eradication.



Above: Recorded distribution of Orange hawkweed in NSW.



Above: Orange hawkweed forms dense clumps of layered plants which outcompete other species.

For information on how to identify and control weeds contact the Biosecurity team.

24/7 Customer service line

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Identifying Orange hawkweed



Rosettes are usually no bigger than a dinner plate and may be flat and spread out, or have the leaves held upright where plants are crowded.

Leaves are oblong or oval and covered on both sides with coarse white hairs. They are bright green over summer with a distinct purple tinge on the edges and underside in spring and autumn during frost periods.

Flowers are 1-2cm in diameter and bright orange with square ended petals. They are held in clusters on the end of tall stems.

Stems are hairy and exude a milky sap when broken.



Orange hawkweed is similar in appearance to other hawkweeds, dandelions, and flatweeds, however these species all have yellow flowers.

Daughter plants are produced at the end of stolons.



CONTROLLING ORANGE HAWKWEED

Please do not attempt to treat or dispose of this weed yourself. Report this plant if you see it anywhere in NSW by calling the NSW DPI Biosecurity Helpline on 1800 680 244.

NSW DPI will lead an initial response for the treatment and disposal of the plant to stop it from spreading.

NSW WeedWise can be accessed as web pages or as a smartphone app

