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MEADOW HAWKWEED MANAGEMENT TIPS

Meadow hawkweed, a member of the Sunflower family, is a perennial forb that reproduces by seeds, stolons and rhizomes, similar to strawberry plants. Leaves are dark green above and lighter green below. Leaves are long, narrow and form basal rosettes. Rosettes produce up to 25 flowering stems, which can reach three feet tall. Stems have very few leaves (two or less) and are covered with short stiff hairs. The entire plant contains a milky colored sap. Flowers are bright yellow and resemble dandelions. Each stem produces 5 to 30 flower heads. Each flower head can produce 25 to 30 seeds with dandelion-like hairs that are adapted to wind travel.

Seed longevity is seven years. This plant is capable of forming extremely dense mats (up to 3200 rosettes/sq yard) which choke out all other vegetation. There are several native hawkweeds which can be difficult to distinguish from meadow hawkweed.



Management and control efforts should focus on reducing seed production and depleting root reserves. Control efforts must be planned for many consecutive years on the existing site in order to prevent seed formation/dispersal and to monitor for, and appropriately treat, any new plants that emerge from seeds or roots.

Effective control measures for the management of meadow hawkweed include:

- 1. Mechanical (hand pulling & digging):** Hand pulling and digging can be effective for small infestations, and are most effective from when the plant has bolted through the early flowering stage. The entire root, rosette and all stolons must be removed to prevent the plant from re-growing. Always place flowering plants in bags to prevent seed dispersal. Return to the area for several years to monitor for and remove any new plants. Wear gloves when pulling or digging plants.
- 2. Herbicide: Always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** Calibrate your equipment to ensure that you are adding the proper amount of herbicide to your tank. The following herbicides are commonly used to control meadow hawkweed. **Do NOT use these herbicides in lawns, turf or ornamental settings – read the label.** *For the most effective control, apply herbicides when plants are in the rosette stage up to the flowering stage or in the fall after re-growth has occurred.*

Mixing rates in small backpack or hand sprayers are as follows:

Milestone:	3/4 – 1.25 teaspoons herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
GrazonNext HL:	1 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Opensight:	1/2 – 2/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Chaparral:	1/2 – 2/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
DuraCor:	0.5 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.

Rates in large sprayers are as follows:

Milestone:	4 - 7 oz herbicide per acre.
GrazonNext HL:	1 quart herbicide per acre.
*Opensight:	2.5 – 3.3 oz herbicide per acre.
*Chaparral:	2.5 – 3.3 oz herbicide per acre.
DuraCor:	12 oz herbicide per acre.

NOTE: Adding a surfactant to your tank mix may enhance the performance of your herbicide and is required for certain herbicides (read the label). Add 0.5 - 1 oz per gallon of water for backpack sprayers or 1 – 2 pints per 100 gallons for large sprayers.

*** denotes that a surfactant is required for the herbicide to be effective**

- 3. Cultural (revegetation):** Revegetation is an important management practice on disturbed sites. Hawkweeds are not very shade tolerant, so seeding of competitive desirable plants along with herbicide applications will reduce the establishment of hawkweed during initial revegetation. Fertilizer should also be included to increase the competitiveness of desirable seeded species.
- 4. Integrated management:** Management of hawkweed is more effective when more than one strategy is used.