



Tansy Ragwort

Scientific Name:	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Weed Class:	B
Requirement:	Control Required
Other Names:	Staggerwort
Native To:	Europe and Asia
Toxicity:	Toxic to Humans & Livestock

Why is it a noxious weed?

Tansy Ragwort is toxic and a threat to livestock and agriculture. All parts of the plants are toxic, with the highest amount of alkaloids in flowers then the leaves, roots and stems. Toxic properties are a possible threat to humans through food chain contaminants.

How would I identify it?

General Description

Tansy ragwort is a biennial, sometimes annual or perennial herbaceous plant. As a biennial, tansy ragwort spends the first year in the rosette stage with dark green basal leaves that appear ruffled. During the second year, flowering stems form.

Flower Description

The flowerheads are in flat topped clusters. Flowerheads are yellow with many disk flowers and 13 ray flowers. Each flower has a daisy-like appearance. Flowerheads have bracts at their base with dark tips.

Leaf Description

Leaves are twice divided, with petioles on leaves near the base and without petioles toward stem tips. First year leaves in a basal clump (rosette). Second year leaves are alternate along the stem. Leaves are 1.5 to 8 inches long by 1 to 2.5 inches wide.

Stem Description

Stems reach up to 4 feet tall, numbering one to many. They often branch near the tips.

Fruit/Seed Description

Seeds are smooth to sparsely hairy.



May Be Confused With:

Two Class C weeds, Common St. Johnswort (*Hypericum Perforatum*), which has 5 petals, and Common Tansy (*Tanacetum Vulgare*), which does not have petals - ray flowers only.

Where does it grow?

Tansy Ragwort is found on roadsides, in pastures, fields and cleared forested areas. It is not particular to soil type.

How does it reproduce?

Tansy Ragwort usually reproduces by seed, although it can also reproduce vegetatively.

How do I control Tansy Ragwort?

The most effective way to manage weed infestations is to research, plan for, and use a combination of prevention and control methods specific to the problem weed. This approach is called **I**ntegrated **W**eed **M**anagement (IWM), which uses mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical control methods that effectively treat the problem weed yet protect human health, habitat, water, and other natural resources.

IWM Control Method	Effectiveness of Control Method			Timing and Notes **
	Good	Fair	Poor	
Digging	G			Effective for small infestations. Be sure to remove entire root. If in flower, bag the plants and throw in garbage; do not compost.
Hand-Pulling	G			Effective for small infestations. Best before soil dries out. Be sure to remove entire root. If in flower, bag the plants and throw in garbage; do not compost.
Mowing		F		<i>Plants will regrow. Mowing is appropriate as a short-term fix in order to avoid seed formation. Follow with a better control method (herbicide in the fall, for example).</i>
Tilling		F		May be effective but will initially expose more seed for germination. Follow-up control is necessary.
Black Plastic	G			
Cover Crop		F		Not effective as a sole control method. First till or apply herbicide. Re-seed area with fast-growing pasture grass to reduce germination.
Native Plant Restoration		F		A dense shrub and tree planting will eventually shade out tansy ragwort. Other control methods should be employed until the tree planting matures.
Managed Grazing				Toxic to livestock!
Weed-Feeding Insects		F		Can be effective—similar to mowing—on large populations over large areas. Small numbers of plants are best controlled by other methods.
Herbicides - (Examples*)	<i>Timing is crucial!! Herbicide treatments must occur before plants bloom. When tansy ragwort is in flower, herbicides are not usually effective.</i>			
<i>Livestock may be attracted to tansy ragwort after it has dried. It may be necessary to either exclude livestock from infested pastures or remove the dried tansy plants.</i>				
Aminopyralid	Milestone	G		Best if applied to plants in the rosette stage, in the spring, before stem elongation. Fall treatment of newly-germinated plants is also effective.
Glyphosate	Roundup		F	Glyphosate is effective on tansy ragwort but is not the best option for pastures since it will kill grass. Re-seed after spraying.
Triclopyr combinations	Crossbow	G		Crossbow is more effective than Triclopyr-only products. Spray in the spring, before flowering. Fall spray of new plants is also effective.
Dicamba combinations	Weedmaster	G		Best if applied to plants before flowering. Fall treatment of newly-germinated plants is also effective.

*Brand names are listed as examples only. Other products may contain the listed chemical. Clark County does not endorse any product or brand name. Always read and follow the herbicide label.

****Timing of control is critical!** Herbicide treatments are often not effective or appropriate when plants are in flower. If the weeds have produced seed, bag the plants and place in garbage, not compost. Regardless of control method chosen, multiple treatments may be needed each year. For more information on IWM, specific herbicides, and timing of control, please contact the Weed Board at:



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