



Ada County



February
2012

Pest of the Month

**A quick guide to identifying and controlling
invasive plants and animals found in the county**

TANSY RAGWORT

Tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) is a biennial or short lived perennial. The stems are erect, straight, have no or few hairs, and can reach a height of 6 feet. The leaves are connected and lobed with an unpleasant smell. The flower heads are 1 inch wide, and are born in dense, flat-topped clusters. The florets are bright yellow. It has a long flowering period lasting from June to November.

Tansy ragwort is native to the Eurasian continent. In Europe it is widely spread, from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean. In Britain and Ireland it is listed as a weed. In the USA it has been introduced, and is present mainly in the North West and North East: California, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington.



Quick Facts



Tansy Ragwort is found along roadsides, in pastures, hayfields, creek bottoms, after forest fires and forest clear-cuts.

Tansy ragwort is classed as a prohibited noxious weed because it can be deadly to horses, cattle and other livestock. Sheep, however, appear to be unaffected by ragwort's toxicity.

Cattle allowed to feed on tansy, even in hay, can produce contaminated milk. If contaminated milk is consumed by humans, over time deadly toxins in the milk can accumulate in the liver, causing irreversible liver damage.

Seeds can lay dormant in the soil for 15 years. The pollen in Tansy ragwort is also toxic, and tansy ragwort within two miles of bee hives can produce dangerous honey without the beekeeper knowing.

See control methods on other side...

How to Control

Manual

Tansy ragwort can be controlled through hand digging and/or pulling. Plants are easiest to pull after plants have bolted but before flowering (elongation of flowering stem has started), and when the soil is moist. When pulling, try to remove as much of the root as possible to prevent regrowth.

Chemical

Tansy ragwort can be controlled using specific herbicides. Tansy ragwort should be sprayed in spring or early summer before flower buds appear to ensure plants do not produce seed after being sprayed. Spraying can also be done in the fall, to target rosettes that will overwinter.

2,4-D

There are many herbicides containing 2,4-D. Tansy ragwort can be successfully treated using either low-volume ester or amine formulations of 2,4-D. Best results are obtained when plants are small or in the rosette stage, either in spring or fall.

2,4-D + Dicamba

This combination of chemicals is contained in herbicides such as Weedmaster, All-in-One Weed Killer and some Weed-B-Gon. It can be applied to tansy ragwort at any time up to flowering and again in the fall.

2,4-D + Triclopyr

This combination of chemicals can be found in herbicides such as Crossbow. It can be applied to tansy ragwort at any time up to flowering, and again in the fall.

Note: Chemical control of any weed can be difficult and confusing. If you are not experienced in chemical control or do not understand the product label, you should consult a licensed applicator to assist you. Inappropriate application can kill desirable vegetation, and may violate federal law.



For questions and concerns, please contact:

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