



Control Options for Common Tansy

General Information

Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) is an aromatic perennial plant introduced from Europe as a medicinal herb. It grows 2-6 feet tall with purplish stems topped with clusters of yellow button-like flowers. The plant is mildly toxic to livestock, though rarely grazed because of its disagreeable odor. Lack of grazing also allows it to seed more freely in pastures. It reproduces both by seed and from the rootstock. This plant is often confused with Tansy Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*).



Manual/Mechanical Techniques

Hand-pulling/digging is reserved for small areas. Care must be taken to remove as much of the roots as possible. Gloves and long sleeves and pants should be worn to prevent exposure to the toxins in the plants. Materials should be bagged and sealed and disposed of at a commercial disposal facility. Seeding disturbed areas helps prevent re-establishment of tansy. Natural mulches (bark, wood chips, etc.) are not very effective but may help loosen the soil and keep it moist for easier manual removal. Mowing is not very effective control, but can be useful in preventing plants from seeding until a better management method can be used.

Chemical Recommendations

Common tansy can be managed using specific herbicides. When using herbicides, always read and follow label directions for rates, spraying conditions, personal protective equipment and grazing intervals. If spraying is the chosen option, spray late in the evening to reduce the direct impact on pollinating insects. Do not spray when it is windy or raining, or when rain is forecast. Do not cut sprayed plants for at least 2 weeks after herbicide application. Herbicides should not be sprayed within 60 feet of water bodies and creeks, without further consultation with the Noxious Weed Board. Remember, it is the herbicide applicators responsibility to apply the product in accordance to the instructions on the label.

Metsulfuron (Escort®, others) and **chlorsulfuron** (e.g. Telar®) and **imazapyr** (e.g. Habitat®) can be used effectively when plants are in bud to bloom stage, but may or may not be an appropriate herbicide for your site. Apply in optimum weather conditions and when winds are low to prevent drift. Follow label instructions carefully to determine application methods, timing and rates, and to ensure desired vegetation will not be harmed.

NEVER apply RoundUp® or other herbicides to standing water unless they are distinctly labeled for aquatic use. Ingredients in non-aquatic products may be toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms. Aquatic formulations of herbicides are generally only available to licensed pesticide applicators in Washington State. If the target plants are immediately adjacent to or are in standing water, a state permit may be required in order to treat those plants with an aquatically approved herbicide.

- **Always read and understand the label of the herbicides you choose to use.**
- **More is NOT better when using herbicides, and may actually hinder the ability of the herbicide to injure the target plant if the solution is too strong. This wastes money and effort and puts more product into the environment than is necessary. ALWAYS follow the recommended rates on the label.**
- **With all herbicides, when you apply them is as important as how you apply them.**

The mention of a specific product brand name in this document is not, and should not be construed as an endorsement or as a recommendation for the use of that product. Herbicide information is taken from the WSU Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook, King County Noxious Weed Program, and Montana State University Extension.