



# TANSY RAGWORT

*Senecio jacobaea*



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Pierce Co. Noxious Weed Control Board

- \* Tansy Ragwort is a Class B Designate noxious weed.
- \* T.R. is a biennial herb from the Asteraceae Family. It reproduces by seed, up to 200,000 seeds per plant and can also reproduce vegetatively.
- \* It spends its first year in the rosette stage with dark green ruffled leaves. Rosettes usually overwinter and produce a flowering stalk in the next growing season. The plant grows between 2 to 6 feet tall. It develops a stout taproot from which numerous fibrous roots grow about 1 foot deep. The leaves are light to dark green and deeply lobed. The upper part of the stem is highly branched and bears up to 250 bright yellow daisy-like flowers. Each flower has about 13 petals which helps to distinguish it from St. John's Wort which is similar looking, but has only 5 petals; and common tansy which bears button-like blooms with no outer ray petals.
- \* Tansy Ragwort is toxic to livestock and poses a threat to agriculture. Toxins can pose a possible threat to humans through food chain contamination.

- \* Tansy ragwort is a problem in grasslands, disturbed areas, forests, pastures, rangelands, and clear-cuts. Tansy ragwort occurs on many different soil types.

## CONTROL OPTIONS

- \* The most effective control is prevention. Above all else, prevent plants from going to seed.
- \* Hand-pulling is most effective on small infestation sites. Tansy can re-grow if the roots are broken off, or anytime the plant is cut. Covering the site with mulch will help prevent new germination from the disturbed site.
- \* Mowing is not recommended. Mowing will prevent seed production; however, any damage to the stalk will cause the plant to keep growing as a perennial.
- \* Spot spraying with an herbicide containing the active



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ingredient *glyphosate* (Roundup Pro, Glyfos, etc.) may be used effectively during the period of time from rosette stage to full flower. Applications made after the petals turn brown are ineffective. Herbicide application should take place when plants are actively growing and before seeds are produced. Spray each plant thoroughly on the stems and leaves, enough to be wet but not dripping. Be aware, *glyphosate* is non-selective and will injure any plants that it comes in contact with, including grass.

- \* For selective control of Tansy ragwort in agricultural settings (pastures, hayfields, etc.): an herbicide containing the active ingredient *aminopyralid* (example: Milestone, Milestone VM, etc.) may be applied while the plant is actively growing, before seeds are produced. It is also effective in the fall before a killing frost. *Aminopyralid* products will not harm grass and can be used around livestock provided all label precautions are followed.
- \* For information about the biological control of Tansy Ragwort, see the [WSU Extension Integrated Weed Control Project](#).

