



Deep Roots
Greater Heights



In bloom



Leaf (L. Scott)



Extensive growth in fields

Maple Ridge Noxious Weeds Program

Tansy Ragwort

(*Senecio jacobaea*)

Designation: Provincially Noxious

History:

Introduced from Eurasia, first reported in BC in 1913.

How to Identify:

Flowers: Several many daisy-like, bright yellow flowers in flat-topped clusters. The black-tipped bracts of the flower heads are arranged in a single row. Plants flower from July through September, depending on geographic location.

Seeds: Ribbed seeds are 1 mm long with a pappus of white hairs about 3 mm long.

Leaves: Basal leaves are stalked, 4 – 20 cm long, and 2 – 6 cm wide. Stem leaves are alternate, becoming progressively smaller and stalkless moving upward. All leaves are deeply cut, giving the plant a ragged appearance.

Stem: Mature plants are 0.2 – 1.2 m tall. The one to several stems are erect and are branched near the top. First year plants do not flower and are dense rosettes with dark green ruffled or lobed leaves on purplish stems.

Location: Grows on disturbed sites in pastures, hayfields, roadsides, and unmaintained areas in new developments.

Mistaken Identity: The leaves of common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*), another noxious weed, are sharply toothed, and the flowers look like yellow buttons because the ray flowers are absent.

The native dryland ragout (*Seneca eremophilus*) resembles tansy ragwort, but the leaf tips are pointed rather than rounded.

Distribution in DMR:

Small groups of plants found in a few areas; A weed for rapid response and eradication.

Information and photos:

http://www.weedsbc.ca/pdf/tansy_ragwort.pdf

http://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/weeds/BMPs/tansy_ragwort-control.pdf

<http://iscmv.ca/target-species/species-profiles>

http://www.bcinvasives.ca/publications/TIPS/Tansy_ragwort_TIPS.pdf

Danger / Impact

Agricultural: Tansy ragwort reduces forage production of pastures by up to 50%. Contains alkaloids that can poison livestock, but the plant is often avoided by animals.

Ecological: Primarily a weed on agricultural land but has been appearing on coastal clear-cuts in BC.

Human: Trace amounts of alkaloids appear in milk and honey produced from infested pastures, raising concerns for human consumption of these products.

Management:

Seed production can be prevented by repeated and thorough mowing before flowering is advanced. Plants mown after flowering can still set seed. Small infestations can be pulled by hand, ensuring to remove as much as the root as possible. Some broadleaf herbicides such as triclopyr, 2, 4-D and dicamba, have been effective for tansy ragwort control.

Biological control is effective at reducing (but not eliminating) populations (and is being used in the Fraser Valley).

Disposal: Make sure to properly discard all plant pieces in thick plastic bags and transport them to a sanitary landfill site or incinerator. Composting is not an appropriate means of disposal as this may result in further distribution. Remember that humans can actually spread invasive plants by taking seeds from one place to another on clothing, tires, equipment, etc.

Restoration and Planting Alternatives:

Seed disturbed areas to perennial grasses and forbs. Manage grazing animals to maintain perennial plant communities. Hand-pull plants and remove them from new infestations. Cut plants before they go to seed.



Photo: L. Scott



Photo: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Who Do you Call?

1) **REPORT PROHIBITED WEEDS** – Report-A-Weed: www.reportaweedbc.ca 1-888-WEEDSBC

2) **DMR: 604-467-7363** – AND SEE: <http://www.mapleridge.ca/714/Invasive-Plant-Species>