

Clallam County Noxious Weed Alert

Common tansy

Tanacetum vulgare

Class B Noxious Weed — **Control Required**

Toxic to humans and livestock

Identification

- Erect, aromatic perennial plant, grows up to 5 ft tall
- Flower heads are flat-topped clusters of 20-200 small, yellow, button-like flowers
- Forms dense stand of stems that feel woody
- Leaves is not hairy to sparsely hairy
- Leaves are alternate, deeply lobed and evenly dotted with glands
- Creeping roots are thick and extensive
- Plants emerge in the spring, flower from July to September and die back in the winter



Impacts

Toxic to humans and livestock. Heavy consumption can be dangerous, causing convulsion and miscarriages as well as skin irritation. Livestock poisoning is rare due to low palatability and aroma. Common tansy establishes quickly, displacing forage plants and reducing wildlife habitat and species diversity.

Reproduction

Common tansy reproduces by numerous tufted seeds dispersed by wind and water. It also reproduces vegetatively from root fragments. Seeds and root fragments can be transported by birds and animals, in contaminated soil or hay, on equipment and vehicles and small distances by wind and in water. It has high seed viability.



Look-a-likes

Tansy ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*) and Common St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*) are widespread noxious weeds that often grow with common tansy. All three of these species have toxic characteristics.



Tansy ragwort

Tansy ragwort has yellow flowerheads, but more daisy-like petals. **Tansy ragwort is required for control in Clallam County.**



Common St. Johnswort

Common St. Johnswort has yellow flowers that are 5-petaled with tiny purple dots along the petal margins.



Control Methods

General: Gloves should be worn at all times when removing common tansy to protect from skin sensitivity.

Control often takes a couple of years, so checking infestations multiple times a year is necessary.

Mechanical: Very small infestations can be hand-pulled, especially when soils are moist. Because of its extensive root systems, revisit site multiple times during the growing season to monitor and remove resprouts. Mowing will not kill the plant, but can keep it from flowering and going to seed if done multiple times during the growing season. Tillage can spread root fragments, which can then grow into new plants. All plant parts that are removed should be bagged and thrown away in the trash. Do not compost.

Cultural: Grazing is not recommended due to the toxic characteristics of common tansy. Promoting competitive vegetation can slow the spread of common tansy.

Chemical: Please follow all regulations and labels when applying herbicides. Always wear personal protective gear (PPE) when using herbicides. In some cases, such as treatment in or around standing water, a permit or special license is required. A systemic herbicide, which will attack both the plant's shoot and root system, is recommended. Adding a surfactant to the herbicide mix is also recommended, as it increases herbicide absorption into the plant. Do not cut or mow plants right before or for 2 weeks after application to allow the plant to absorb the herbicide. Please refer to the herbicide label for livestock and hay restrictions. Chemically treated plants can become more palatable to livestock when plants begin to wilt. Successful treatments will depend on the treatment location, site specifications, timing, and weather. **For more information about herbicides or site specific use, please contact the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board.**

***For best control of common tansy, treat when plants emerge in the spring and are rapidly growing but before flower buds develop.**



Clallam County
Noxious Weed Control Board

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