

# Tansy ragwort

Colorado Dept. of  
Agriculture,  
Conservation  
Services Division  
700 Kipling Street  
Suite 4000  
Lakewood, CO 80215  
303-239-4100



## Key ID Points

1. Yellow ray and disk flowers.
2. Reaches 1-6 feet in height.
3. Leaves are 2-8 inches long.
4. Rank odor from crushed leaves.

## Tansy ragwort Identification and Management



disturbed by mechanical and pulling control methods.

**T**ansy ragwort outcompetes native plant species and reduces available forage for livestock and wildlife. It is toxic to cattle and horses causing irreversible liver damage. The plant is not palatable or nutritionally sufficient for livestock and disrupts native plant communities and forms monocultures. The soil seed reserve is at least 16 years.

## Identification and Impacts

**T**ansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) is a non-indigenous, poisonous weed native to Europe and Asia minor, that is responsible for the deaths of thousands of livestock. It is a taprooted biennial or short lived perennial reaching 1 to 6 feet in height. The stems are stout and erect, with slightly branching characteristics. The leaves are 2 to 8 inches long, alternate and equally distributed mostly pinnately lobed, with the terminal lobe generally larger than the lateral ones. When the leaves are crushed, they give off a rank odor. The flowers form in clusters at the end of erect branches. The flowering heads are numerous and contain ray and disk flowers that are yellow in color. The flowers have 10 to 13 petals and are 1/4 to 1/2 inch long. The stems may be solitary or multiple up to the inflorescence. The seeds are pappus and are carried by the wind, each plant can produce up to 150,000 seeds.

**H**abitat for tansy ragwort include roadsides, pasture land, rangeland sites and disturbed forest habitats after logging. It currently effects millions of acres in the Pacific Northwest. The viability of the seeds can be up to 15 years. Monitoring a site after eradication, is imperative with seed dormancy being so long. The crown and root system can reproduce vegetatively and produce rosettes. This occurs when plants are

**T**he key to effective control of tansy ragwort is preventing the establishment of plant communities through sound land management practices. Maintain healthy pastures and rangeland and continually monitor your property for new infestations. If plant populations of tansy ragwort exist, combining herbicides, cultural and mechanical control methods can be effective in eradication. Details on the back of this sheet can help to create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.

**T**ansy ragwort is designated as a "List A" species in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be eradicated wherever found in the State. For more information visit [www.colorado.gov/ag/csd](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/csd) and click on the Noxious Weed Management Program. Or call the State Weed Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division, 303-239-4100.



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*Senecio jacobaea*

**CULTURAL**

When native forbs and grasses are already present, assisting plant competitiveness by supplementing fertilizers can be an effective cultural control method. This proves to be most successful on pasture and rangelands where soil nitrogen levels may be depleted.

**BIOLOGICAL**

Biocontrol agents are not included in the prescribed management plans by the State for List A species. Eradication is the management objective of all List A's. No biocontrol agent for Tansy ragwort is available. For more information on biocontrol in Colorado, please contact the Palisade Insectary of the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 970-464-7916.

**MECHANICAL**

Hand pulling or digging is an effective control method when populations are small. Hand pulling should occur when soil is moist and be certain to pull all the roots, since Tansy ragwort has a tendency to grow from root fragments. It is important to bag specimens carefully so as to not scatter seeds if the plant is flowering.

*Integrated Weed Management:*

*Preventing the establishment of this plant in Colorado is crucial since it is not yet known to exist in the state. Monitoring your land for infestations is key to early detection. Eradication requires intensive and persistent control efforts to effectively eliminate weed infestations and soil seed reserves.*

*Once seed reserves have been established Tansy ragwort is very persistent and tough to manage.*

## Tansy ragwort

**HERBICIDES**

**NOTE:** The following are recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to range and pasturelands. Rates are approximate and based on equipment with an output of 30 gal/acre. Please read label for exact rates. **Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!**

| HERBICIDE                | RATE  | APPLICATION TIMING   |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Aminopyralid (Milestone) | 4 to 5 fl oz/A                                  | Apply at the rosette growth stage. (During first year of growth or Spring) |
| Picloram (Tordon 22K)    | 2 to 4 pt/A + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant    | Apply at the rosette growth stage. (During first year of growth or Spring) |
| Metsulfuron (Escort XP)  | 1 oz product/A + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant | Apply at the bud growth stage. (Spring)                                    |
| 2,4-D                    | 2 lb ai/A + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant      | Apply at the rosette growth stage. (During first year of growth or Spring) |

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