



Tanacetum vulgare

WA – Class C Noxious Weed

Common Tansy

Garden Tansy

Family: Asteraceae

Origins: Native to Europe and Asia, Common Tansy was originally brought to the United States in the 1600s for medicinal and horticultural purposes.

Range: Found throughout much of the United States.

Habitat: Commonly grows in disturbed areas, fields, pastures, meadows, roadsides, and railway embankments.

Impact: This plant spreads through an extensive root system and prolific seed production, forming dense stands that inhibit the growth of desirable vegetation. This results in a loss of quality forage and habitat for wildlife and native plants.

One plant can produce between 2,000-150,000 seeds, which can remain viable in the soil for 15 years. The rhizomes also remain viable in the soil for up to 10 years.

Description: Common Tansy is a rhizomatous, perennial plant growing up to 6 feet tall. Leaves are fern-like, alternately arranged along the stems, and strongly aromatic when crushed. Plants have multiple brown to reddish-brown stems that are dotted with numerous glands. Button-like Yellow flowers are ¼ to ½ inch in diameter and arranged in dense flat-topped clusters at the tips of stems.

Common Look-Alikes: Yellow Yarrow, Tansy Ragwort.

* Toxic to humans and livestock if ingested in large quantities.



Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the combined use of various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. See the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed’s IPM Resources & Strategy Guide for more information or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

Non-Herbicide Control

Mechanical
 (pulling, cutting,
 digging, etc.)

Mowing will not control plants, but it can be used to prevent seed production if it is done when plants are actively growing and before budding.
 Hand pulling single plants or small infestations is not effective on its own, plants will regenerate from root fragments.

Continued...

Cultural	Planting competitive native vegetation can slow down the spread of this plant. Minimize soil disturbance and re-vegetate any disturbed areas promptly.
Biological	Sheep can graze significant amounts without toxic effects.

Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment

Aminocyclopyrachlor + chlorsulfuron (Perspective)	Timing: Apply to young, actively growing plants in spring. Remarks: Even low rates can kill non-target tree and shrub species, avoid application within a distance equal to the tree height of sensitive species; do not allow spray to drift off-target; can injure grass species; do not apply near water.
Dicamba + 2,4-D (Weedmaster, Range Star)	Timing: Apply to young, actively growing plants in the spring. Remarks: Avoid drift to sensitive crops; grass tolerates dicamba; do not apply near water.
Chlorsulfuron (Telar)	Timing: Apply to young, actively growing plants in the spring. Remarks: Use on non-cropland only; do not apply to the frozen ground; maintain constant agitation while mixing the product with water; avoid contact with sensitive crops; do not treat powdery, dry soils and light, sandy soils if rain is not likely after treatment.
Metsulfuron (Escort, MSM)	Timing: Apply to young, actively growing plants in the spring. Remarks: Do not allow spray to drift to sensitive crops; apply only to pasture, rangeland, and non-crop sites; application sites differ between products; for best results, use a surfactant.

* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**

Information for this control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, nwcw.wa.gov. Herbicide information from the PNW Weed Management Handbook (ISBN 978-1-931979-22-1) and product labels.