

T.I.P.S.

Targeted Invasive Plant Solutions

9 Common Tansy



Common Tansy • *Tanacetum vulgare* • Synonyms - Golden buttons, parsley fern, *Chrysanthemum vulgare*, *Tanacetum boreale*

Legal Status

- ✓ Invasive Plants Regulation, *Forest and Range Practices Act*
- ✓ Noxious Weed (Regional), *BC Weed Control Act*

Distribution

Currently distributed in the following areas: Bulkley-Nechako, Central Kootenay, Columbia-Shuswap, East Kootenay, and North Okanagan Regional Districts, and within Greater Vancouver, Fraser Valley, southeast coast of Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands, Sunshine Coast, and Squamish/Pemberton.

Identification

Flowers: Many yellow disc flowers that resemble buttons are found at the top of the plant in a flat-topped cluster. There are no ray flowers. 20-200 flower heads per plant.

Stems: Up to 1.8 m in height. When mature, stems can be purplish-red. Glands give a dotted appearance.

Leaves: Dark green, divided leaves with serrated leaflets. 10-20 cm long and 4-8 cm wide.

Fruits: 1 mm long achenes (simple, dry, one-seeded fruit). Dotted with glands and 5-angled.

Similar Species: Common tansy is sometimes confused with Tansy ragwort, which has ray flowers.

Ecological Characteristics

Habitat: Prefers sunny areas with well-drained soils. Often infests stream banks, pastures, and other disturbed sites such as roadsides. Can not effectively establish in frequently tilled soils.

Reproduction: Perennial species that reproduces by seed. Seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 25 years.

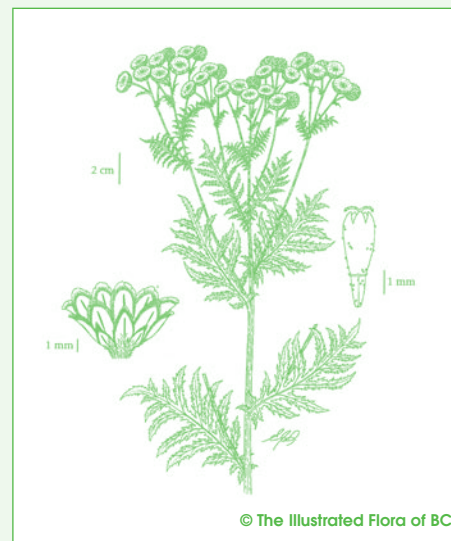
Dispersal: Plants spread mainly through seed but also through roots. Seeds can be transported by birds, animals, and on vehicles that have been working in infested areas. Control of seed dispersal is more important than control of vegetative spread.



Current Distribution in BC



Dots indicate species presence as recorded in IAPP (accessed September 19, 2007).



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Impacts

Economic: Infestations may be toxic to grazers (leaves contain neurotoxins, toxic oils, and the pesticide pyrethrin). Dairy cattle consuming the leaves often have unpleasant tasting milk.

Ecological: Infestations of common tansy displace native vegetation.

Integrated Pest Management

IPM is a decision-making process that includes identification and inventory of invasive plant populations, assessment of the risks that they pose, development of well-informed control options that may include a number of methods, site treatment, and monitoring.

Prevention

- The use of fertilizer can increase the competitive ability of grasses and other desirable plants, thereby preventing or reducing infestations of common tansy.

Mechanical Control

- Common tansy can not be controlled with single mowing events (e.g. once-a-year), as the plants will respond with an increase in vegetative growth.
- Mowing sites very low to the ground before July can prevent seed production.
- Combined mowing and subsequent herbicide treatment of re-growth appears to be an effective control method. Treatments must be repeated over several years.
- Hand pulling may be used in areas where mowing and herbicide application are not feasible. Gloves and other protective clothing should be worn to prevent skin irritation.

Biocontrol

- No biocontrol agent in BC to date. BC is part of a consortium and is pursuing research on biocontrol for this species.

Chemical Control

Herbicide recommendations and use must consider site characteristics and be prescribed based on site goals and objectives. Herbicide labels and other sources of information must be reviewed before selecting and applying herbicides.

- Ensure that chemical treatments do not injure or kill susceptible, non-target vegetation.
- The following herbicides provide effective control for common tansy: picloram, picloram/2,4 D, metsulfuron methyl, and aminopyralid.
- Application of pesticides on Crown land must be carried out following a confirmed Pest Management Plan (*Integrated Pest Management Act*) and under the supervision of a certified pesticide applicator.

www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/edppa/ipmp/index.html



Ministry of Agriculture and Lands



C. Mackay



B. Stewart

References and Links to Further Information

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- *King County Noxious Weed Control Program Best Management Practices for Common Tansy*. King County, Washington. <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/weeds/pdf/common-tansy-control.pdf>
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