

Common tansy

Tanacetum vulgare L.



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Other common names: garden tansy, Tanacetum, bitter buttons, ginger plant, parsley fern, scented fern, English cost, hind heal

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)

USDA Code: TAVU

Bayer Code (WSSA): CHYVU

Life cycle classification: Perennial forb

Legal Status: Colorado Noxious Weed (general weed)

Native to: Common tansy is a native of Europe that was introduced into North America as an ornamental and medicinal herb (Whitson et al. 2000)

Entry into Colorado: No information available

Current distribution in Colorado: Found throughout the United States (CNAP 2000). No information available on Colorado distribution.



Biology

Seasonal development: Flowering typically occurs from July to September (CNAP 2000).

Reproduction

Most commonly reproduces by: Reproduces by both seed and creeping rootstocks (CNAP 2000)

Numbers of seeds/plant: No information available

Description

Roots: Rhizomatous

Stems: Mature plants are 1.5 to 6 feet tall. Stems are often purplish-red in color (CNAP 2000)

Leaves: Leaves are alternate, deeply divided into numerous narrow, individual leaflets (CNAP 2000)

Flowers: Yellow flowers are numerous in flat-topped dense clusters at the tops of the plants. Button-like flower heads lack ray flowers (CNAP 2000).

Fruits & seeds: Seeds are yellowish brown achenes with short, five-toothed crowns (CNAP 2000)

Other: Foliage is rank smelling (CNAP 2000)

Value & Uses

Wood products: No information available

Importance to/impact on livestock & wildlife

Palatability: Horses and cows sometimes browse the tender young leaves of the common tansy, but they leave it alone as it matures. Tansy could be toxic to these animals in excess. Sheep and goats however, eat the plant with great enthusiasm (Elpel 2002).

Nutritional value: No information available

Cover value: No information available

Value for rehabilitation of disturbed sites: No information available

Other uses & values: Common tansy has been used for centuries for treating various ailments and as an insect repellent (CNAP 2000).

Infestations

Habitat: Common tansy is commonly found along roadsides, stream banks, in waste areas, and in pastures. It grows best in full sun and on fertile, well-drained soil (CNAP 2000).

Impacts/Threats:

Special Challenges to Management: As with other rhizomatous perennials, mechanical controls such as mowing or hand cutting are most effective in combination with other methods. Plants can re-grow from severed roots, and cut stems may still produce viable seed. Control the spread of common tansy by preventing seed production and dispersal, minimizing the spread of cut rootstocks, and establishing healthy stands of desirable species on controlled areas (CNAP 2000).

Control Methods

Physical

Manual: As with other rhizomatous perennials, controls such as hand cutting are most effective in combination with other methods (CNAP 2000).

Mechanical:

Cultivation: Tansy regenerates from root fragments, so cultivation could expand the size of an infestation.

Mowing: Common tansy can be mowed just before flowering and seed set to decrease seed production. This method may have to be repeated to eliminate re-growth from the rootstocks (CNAP 2000).

Cultural: Prevent the establishment of new infestations by minimizing disturbance and seed dispersal, eliminating seed production and maintaining healthy native communities (CNAP 2000).

Biological:

Insects: None known

Pathogens: None known

Chemical

Conventional:

Trade Name (common name)	Product/Acre (Active Ingredient/Acre)	Remarks
Many trade names (glyphosate)	1.5 lb (1.5 qt)	The best time for treatment is between the early flower (bud) to bloom stage
Vanquish/Clarity (dicamba)	1 lb (1 qt)	The best time for treatment is between the early flower (bud) to bloom stage

Organic: No information available - research needed

USE PESTICIDES WISELY: Always read the entire pesticide label carefully, follow all mixing and application instructions and wear all recommended personal protective gear and clothing.

NOTICE: Mention of pesticide products in this profile does not constitute endorsement of any material.

Additional comments:

Contacts:

Links:

Colorado Weed Management Association

<http://www.cwma.org>

Colorado Dept. of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry

<http://www.ag.state.co.us/DPI/weeds/Weed.html>

Colorado Weed Management Guide

http://www.cepep.colostate.edu/WeedGuide/Weed_Guide_2004.pdf

Thomas J. Elpel's Wildflowers & Weeds Home Page

http://www.3rivers.net/~tomelpel/weedsinfo/Tanacetum_vulgare.htm

Kim Pierson, USFS Botanist

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sawtooth/botany/weeds/commontansy.htm>

References:

Beck, K.G., S.K. McDonald, S.J. Nissen, P.H. Westra. 2002. Colorado Weed Management Guide. Colorado State University Cooperative Extension. Fort Collins, CO. XCM-205.

Colorado Natural Areas Program. 2000. Creating an Integrated Weed Management Plan: A Handbook for Owners and Managers of Lands with Natural Values. Colorado Natural Areas Program, Colorado State Parks, Colorado Department of Natural Resources; and Division of Plant Industry, Colorado Department of Agriculture. Denver, CO. pp 175-176.

http://parks.state.co.us/cnap/IWM_handbook/IWM_index.htm

USDA, NRCS. 2002. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). [National Plant Data Center](#), Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

Whitson, T.D.(ed.), L.C. Burrill, S.A. Dewey, D.W. Cudney, B.E. Nelson, R.D. Lee, R. Parker. 2000.
Common Tansy. *Weeds of the West*. Western Society of Weed Science, in cooperation with the
Western United States Land Grant Universities Cooperative Extension Services and the University
of Wyoming. pp. 184-185.

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