



In the first year of growth, Tansy ragwort is a rosette (circular cluster of leaves).



Daisy-like bright yellow flowers are evident from July to September.



Erect stems grow 0.3 to 1.2 metres (1 to 4 feet) high. The leaves are alternate on the stem.



Leaves are ragged in appearance and deeply lobed.



Tansy ragwort is often confused with Common tansy, shown left.

## Invasive Species are Taking Over!

An **Invasive Species** is a plant or animal living outside of its natural habitat that displays aggressive and rapid growth. Their incredible ability to reproduce, and the absence of natural predators enables these invaders to quickly threaten natural ecological systems. Left unchecked, invasive species will out-compete native species and eventually become dominant. As a result, native species often lose the battle, overwhelmed by aggressive alien invaders.

## So What Can We Do?

- Educate** yourself and neighbours about invasive species found in your community;
- Use **native plants** in your yard;
- Encourage** your community and local government to use native plants in landscaping;
- Dig up** alien invaders from your backyard;
- Minimize disturbance** of natural areas in your local parks by staying on the path and keeping dogs on leashes; and
- Volunteer** with groups holding invasive species removal days in your community

For more information visit our website:  
[www.leps.bc.ca](http://www.leps.bc.ca)



# Tansy Ragwort

(*Senecio jacobaeae*)



Tansy ragwort is a poisonous plant that is causing environmental deterioration and loss of pasture for grazing animals. The plants are toxic to cows, horses and goats, so control of this invasive species is very important in pastures and agricultural land. Native to the British Isles, Tansy ragwort was introduced to North America as a medicinal herb and first recorded in B.C. in Nanaimo in 1950. It is found from Hope, south throughout the Fraser Valley and onto Vancouver Island north to Nanaimo.



**Habitat:**

Tansy ragwort will tolerate light shade though it prefers the open sunlight of recently disturbed areas such as roadsides and heavily grazed pastures.

**Reproduction:**

In the first year, Tansy ragwort exists as a rosette. A rosette is a circular cluster of leaves around a center close to the ground. In the second year of growth, it produces several flowering stems. After two years, the plant dies. A single ragwort plant can produce over 150,000 seeds, and small parts of the root can also grow entire new plants.

**Problems:**

Seeds can lie dormant on the surface of the soil for 4 to 5 years or over 20 years in the soil. The poison contained in the plant is toxic to cows, horses and even goats.

**Prevention:**

Good management and integrated pasture practices can prevent ragweed from establishing in fields. Maintain a healthy field by grazing evenly and not over grazing. Reseed any areas that have been disturbed by rodents, hoof marks or vehicle tracks. If tansy ragwort has been established, chemical and biological control can be used. Do not let ragwort go to seed. **Do not burn Tansy ragwort** as smoke inhalation is toxic. Prevention is **the best** method of controlling tansy ragwort.

Mechanical Control		
	Pulling	Mowing
How	Hand pull in small patches. Bag seed heads to prevent spreading seeds. Be sure to remove entire root system, as roots regenerate.	Mow larger patches
When	May or June- after plants bolt but before they flower	May or June
Duration	Frequently- at rosette stage	Frequently
Pros/Cons	Wear protective clothing because the plant is toxic. Seeds can mature in flowering seed heads even once they have been removed from the ground. This method is labour intensive.	Mowing may increase the amount of toxin ingested by animals as small parts of the plant can be spread. Flowers can sprout below the mowing level.

Chemical Control		
How	Herbicide recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands	Herbicide recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
When	Seedling to young rosette stage	Larger rosette stage
Pros/Cons	Many herbicides are linked to human health risks such as cancer and birth defects. Animals should not be exposed to herbicide treated fields for 7-10 days after application.	Many herbicides are linked to human health risks such as cancer and birth defects. Vegetation should not be cut for hay for 7 days after application.