



Noxious and Invasive Weed Program - <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/weedcontrol>

Prohibited Noxious Weeds

Common Tansy – *Tanacetum vulgare* L.

Noxious Weed Classification – Common tansy is listed as a Prohibited – Control noxious weed in Minnesota. Efforts must be made to prevent seed maturation and dispersal of plants into new areas. Failure to comply with the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law (Minnesota Statutes 18.75 -18.91) may result in an enforcement action by the county or local municipality.

Origin – Native to Europe and Asia

Impacts – Common tansy is highly invasive and can severely reduce pasture capacity and desirable forage, degrade wildlife habitat, hinder reforestation and landscape restoration efforts, and in some instances can be toxic to humans and livestock.



Description – A perennial plant with multiple stems that grow from a clump, giving the plant a shrub-like appearance. Common tansy emits a strong odor when the plant parts are crushed. The plant can reach a height of 6 feet, but often grows 3-4 feet tall. Stems are reddish brown and support the distinctive alternate leaves that are finely divided and have a “fern-like” appearance. “Button-like” yellow flowers are arranged in flat-topped clusters at the stem tips. Flowering occurs from July through September then the flowers senesce and brown seedheads persist until spring. Tansy reproduces by both seed and rhizomes in

the roots to form dense stands. The seeds are lightweight and easily moved by wind, water, wildlife, equipment, etc.

Habitat – Common tansy can be found growing in a wide range of habitats. It typically infests disturbed habitats and is commonly found along roadsides, trails, natural areas, pastures, forest and field margins, mining areas, and non-maintained gravel pits.

Distribution in Minnesota – Common tansy is prevalent throughout the northern ½ to ¾ of Minnesota and continues to spread to the Iowa border. The densest populations extend from north central MN eastward to the Lake Superior and Wisconsin borders.

Control and Management – Persistent hand-pulling and digging may be practical on small patches of common tansy. Removal of the rhizomes from the soil is crucial to preventing re-sprouting. Regular site check-ups will be required to ensure that re-sprouts and new seedlings are destroyed.



Mowing before flowering can reduce seed production. Repeated mowing throughout the season is required to keep the plants from re-sprouting and producing seeds. Mowing alone will not eliminate common tansy patches and in fact can actually increase their densities. Mowing can be beneficial when used several weeks prior to herbicide applications to increase herbicide contact with re-sprouting foliage.



Various herbicides have been used successfully against common tansy in Minnesota. If you plan to use herbicide treatments, check with your local University of Minnesota extension agent, co-op, or landscape care expert for assistance

and recommendations. There are several businesses throughout MN with state-certified herbicide applicators that can be hired to perform chemical applications for common tansy and other noxious weed species. Herbicide applications during the late bud stage of development (late June and early July) have been shown to produce good overall management results. Follow-up treatments in the fall or following spring may be necessary to kill new seedlings or plants unaffected by the initial application.



PERSISTENCE IS THE KEY!

A sound management plan for common tansy will take a commitment of a couple years to ensure that the population has decreased significantly and is not a serious problem.