



Tansy seedling



Tansy leaf



Tansy flowers



Tansy plant



Tansy plant



Tansy seedheads



Tansy infestation



Tansy infestation



COMMON TANSY

Common tansy, *Tanacetum vulgare*, infestations take over grasslands. This reduces forage, wildlife habitat and species diversity. For the health and productivity of our grasslands, it is important to find and control common tansy infestations.



In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711 or 1-800-627-3529. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Photo Credit: Dave Hanson

COMMON TANSY



BACKGROUND

Common tansy is native to Europe and Asia. It was planted in North America for medicinal, culinary and insect repellent uses. It escaped from garden plantings and has spread to most states. Tansy outcompetes forages and native plants to degrade pastures, wildlife habitat, and recreation areas. As a result, tansy is a regulated weed in Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

DESCRIPTION

Common tansy is an herbaceous perennial with multiple stems that form a clump. As the number of tansy plants in an area increases, the clumps grow together to form dense infestations. The plant can reach a height of 6 feet, but often grows 3-4 feet tall. Stems are reddish brown. Leaves are alternate, finely divided, and have a fern-like appearance. Button shaped yellow flowers are arranged in clusters at the stem tips. Flowering occurs July through September then brown seedheads persist until spring. Leaves and other plant parts emit a strong odor when crushed. Common tansy spreads by seed and underground stems.

SIMILAR NATIVE TANSY

There are two species of native tansy. Lake Huron tansy occurs in Wisconsin, Michigan, Maine and Canada. Camphor tansy occurs in California, Oregon and Washington. Both of these species are rare in the United States. They can be distinguished from the much more abundant common tansy by finer divisions on the leaves of the native species.

CONTROL

IDEAL TIMING FOR TREATMENT OPTIONS

Spring	Summer	Fall
Hand-pull rosettes during the growing season		
Grazing with goats		
Foliar spray		Foliar spray

TREATMENT OPTIONS

Mowing is not an effective management option because plants are rarely killed this way. While mowing can reduce seed production, tansy will often resprout after mowing then flower and produce viable seed. Mowing after seed is produced is a common method of spreading these invasive plants.

- 1 - Hand-pulling

This is an option for very small infestations but will not control large populations. Rhizomes (underground stems) must be removed for effective control. Wear protective clothing including gloves to prevent possible skin irritation.

- 2 - Grazing

Grazing with goats or sheep can suppress populations if repeated multiple times throughout the growing season. For best results, begin grazing when rosettes are present and repeat when plants have regrown. Supplemental feed may be necessary. Because of known reproductive issues associated with tansy grazing, animals should not graze common tansy prior to breeding or during gestation.

- 3 - Foliar spray spring and fall rosettes.

Plant foliage can be treated in the summer but spring and fall treatments are more effective.

Choose **ONE** of the following common herbicides used for common tansy control:

ACTIVE INGREDIENT	BROADCAST SPRAY Rate Per Acre	SPOT SPRAY Rate Per Gallon	EFFICACY ONE YEAR Post Treatment
Metsulfuron	0.3–1.0 fl oz*	0.04 fl oz	Good to Excellent
Imazapyr	32 fl oz	1.5 %	Good to Excellent
Chlorsulfuron	0.5–1.0 fl oz	0.03 fl oz	Good
Picloram	32–64 fl oz	equivalent to broadcast	Gotomod
2,4-D	1–2 lb	1%	Fair to Good
Dicamba	32-64 fl oz	equivalent to broadcast	Fair to Good
Glyphosate	Not recommended	1–2%	Poor to Fair

* Lower metsulfuron rates of 0.3 - 0.5 fl oz can be used for pre-bud applications. Higher rates of 0.5 - 1.0 fl oz are needed for fall applications and for treating large, entrenched infestations.

Recommended herbicide application rates are subject to change so please refer to the label. Also refer to the label for recommended adjuvants. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement.

Herbicide treatment options are based upon the Midwest Invasive Plant Network Control Databas: mipncontroldatabase.wisc.edu

Currently, biological control is not available for common tansy. Development of biological control will depend on finding one or more insect species that will not harm non-target species. Several insect candidates for biological control are undergoing host-specificity screening in Switzerland.