



Tansy Ragwort



flowers



stem



leaves

Tansy Ragwort

Genus: *Senecio*

Species: *jacobaea*

Priority Listing: 2A

Perennial

Biennial or short-lived **perennial**

Tansy ragwort is native to Eurasia. Places you are likely to find tansy ragwort include road sides, pastures, fields, cleared forested lands, and other disturbed areas. Roots of tansy ragwort can penetrate the soil 12" deep.

Stems are 8 to 36" in height. Leaves are 2 to 8" long, alternate and deeply cut; giving the leaf a ragged appearance. Flowers generally have 13 petals and are bright yellow in color. Flowers bloom from June to November and are about 1" wide; blooming in dense flat-topped clusters of 20 to 60 flowers.

During a single season one tansy ragwort plant's blooms can yield 2,000 to 2,500 flowers that produce 75,000 to 200,000 seeds, which are capable of remaining **viable** in the soil for up to 15 years! Tansy ragwort reproduces primarily through seeds. Seeds can be distributed and spread to new areas by wind and water and by transportation from animals and humans.

Tansy ragwort can be controlled by various **integrated weed**

management techniques such as hand pulling, **biological control**, and **herbicides**. Hand pulling needs to be done before the plant has gone to seed. Mowing is not a management option for tansy ragwort because new plants can re-sprout if the entire plant is not removed.

In Montana, there are three biological control bugs that are being used on tansy ragwort infestations. The tansy ragwort flea beetle, ragwort seed head fly, and the cinnabar moth. These bio bugs have been very helpful in the management of tansy ragwort in both Lincoln and Flathead counties in northwestern Montana.



John M. Randall; The Nature Conservancy; Bugwood.org

Biennial: a plant that lives two years, usually flowering in the second year

Biological Control Agents: a method of controlling pests (including insects, mites, weeds and plant diseases) using other living organisms

Herbicide: a chemical substance used to kill or destroy plants, likely to be used on weeds

Integrated Weed Management Techniques: the combination of multiple management tools to reduce a pest population to

an acceptable level while preserving the quality of existing habitat, water, and other natural resources

Perennial: a plant whose life spans several years

Viable: capable of growing or developing