

Common tansy

Tanacetum vulgare L.

Sunflower family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Flower heads have numerous yellow $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch button-like flowers without any ray petals and clustered in flat-topped crowns
- ❑ Leaves are divided into many leaflets which are serrated on the margins
- ❑ Stems are 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 feet tall and often purplish-red in color
- ❑ Plants are highly aromatic

Biology and ecology

- A perennial plant reproducing by seeds and root stalks
- Can form very dense patches in moist areas; found along roadsides, in waste areas and in pastures usually with good subsoil moisture
- Undesirable as a livestock forage
- Sometimes mistaken for Tansy ragwort which is poisonous to livestock (Tansy ragwort has ray flowers and a coarser leaf and is usually found west of the Cascades)
- Introduced as a medicinal herb and ornamental

Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of fill dirt, hay and seed from outside your area

Biological - None known at this time

Cultural - Healthy competitive vegetation helps lessen chance of invasion but doesn't preclude it

Mechanical - repeated tillage or digging can be effective but must wear out rootstocks

Chemical - Several effective at label rates with best application time dependant on the herbicide used



common tansy plants in bud stage



Common tansy flowers



Tansy ragwort flowers



Where found – Common in the US. Also, throughout Stevens County usually in dense patches in sub-irrigated areas along roads, ditches, in waste areas and in pastures.