

# TANSY RAGWORT

*Senecio jacobaea*  
Asteraceae, the sunflower family  
Category: Containment

## FACTSHEET INFORMATION

### Summary of Invasiveness

- Tansy ragwort is an invasive wildflower that negatively impacts pasture productivity due to its prolific seed production, vigorous growth, and toxicity to livestock.
- Infestations can lead to soil erosion and loss of biodiversity.
- It is one of the most common causes of livestock poisoning and has even been known to cause human toxicity due to seed contamination of food.

### Description

- Biennial or short-lived perennial growing up to 4 feet tall.
- Rosette leaves are deeply lobed and upper leaves are deeply cut, blunt-toothed lobed, and are dark green on top and whitish-green underneath.
- Yellow, daisy-like flower heads are 1 inch wide with golden centers, and are borne as terminal clusters.
- Ribbed, light-brown achenes have a white hairlike plume.

### Introduction and Movement

- Tansy ragwort is native to Eurasia and is thought to have been introduced both intentionally as an ornamental and unintentionally as a seed contaminant in ballast soil.
- Inhabits disturbed areas such as pastures, roadsides, and overgrazed grasslands.
- It can easily spread by seed dispersal via wind, water, and human/animal vectors, as well as through agricultural practices such as hay movement and contaminated produce.

### Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Tansy ragwort and eradicate infestations on your property.
- When gardening, always research plants before planting and purchase seeds from licensed nurseries.
- Always remove and properly dispose of all seed and plant materials on vehicles, clothing, shoes and pets before you exit or enter outdoor recreational sites.
- Always Remember To: **KNOW WHAT YOU GROW & KNOCK IT OFF!**

#### Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/49558>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



Stephen A. Harris, Cabi.org



Stephen A. Harris, Cabi.org



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## DISTRIBUTION MAP

