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TANSY RAGWORT MANAGEMENT TIPS

Tansy ragwort is a biennial or a short-lived perennial herb with a taproot, and is a member of the Sunflower family. The daisy-like flower has yellow petals with a yellow center. Mature plants usually grow 1 to 3 feet tall, but can reach 6 feet in height. A single large tansy ragwort plant can produce up to 200,000 seeds. The root system consists of extensive light-colored roots that spread and produce shoots when stimulated by mechanical treatment. **Seeds can remain viable for up to 6 years.** Tansy ragwort is typically found in pastures, forest clearings, and waste places, and is often associated with Canada thistle. Tansy ragwort can reduce forage yields by as much as 50% in pastures. Tansy ragwort can be toxic to cattle, deer, horses, and goats because of the alkaloids found in all plant parts. These alkaloids get stored in the liver where they can cause liver degradation, reduced weight gain, reduced butterfat content in cow's milk, and sudden death in apparently healthy animals. The alkaloids in tansy ragwort pollen also taint honey by making it bitter and unmarketable.



Management and control efforts must be planned for many years at the existing site in order to prevent seed formation/dispersal and to monitor for, and appropriately treat, any new plants that emerge.

Control measures that have been found to be effective for the management of tansy ragwort include:

- 1. Mechanical treatment (hand-pulling & digging):** These methods are recommended when there are small infestations or scattered plants, and when most of the taproot can be extracted. Remove as much of the root as possible and place flowering plants in bags to prevent seed dispersal. Follow-up management will be needed to eliminate plants that may regenerate from root fragments. Wear gloves when hand-pulling plants.
- 2. Herbicide treatment: Be sure to always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** Be sure your equipment is calibrated so that you can add the proper amount to your tank. The following herbicides are commonly used to control tansy ragwort.

Mixing rates in small backpack or hand sprayers are as follows:

Milestone:	2/3 – 3/4 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water
GrazonNext HL:	1 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water
*Opensight:	1/2 – 2/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water
*Escort:	1/8 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water
*Telar:	1/5 – 1/4 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water

Rates in large sprayers are as follows:

Milestone:	5 - 7 oz herbicide per acre
GrazonNext HL:	1 quart herbicide per acre
*Opensight:	2.5 – 3 oz herbicide per acre
*Escort:	0.5 – 1 oz herbicide per acre
*Telar:	1 – 2.6 oz herbicide per acre

NOTE: Be sure to add a surfactant to your tank mix, which will enhance the performance of your herbicide and is required for certain herbicides (read the label). (0.5 - 1 oz per gallon of water for backpack sprayers or 1 – 2 pints per 100 gallons for large sprayers)

*** denotes that a surfactant is required for the herbicide to be effective**

For the most effective control: Apply herbicides at the rosette stage either in the spring or mid-fall, as the plants are actively growing.

- 3. Cultural (revegetation):** Planting desirable plant species to compete with tansy ragwort can be useful. Plant a diversity of perennial grass and forb species that occupy many niches and will use available resources to compete over time.
- 4. Grazing management:** Grazing that promotes and maintains a continuous grassland community is recommended for the prevention of tansy ragwort invasion, as well as for the control of tansy ragwort in pastures where it is already established.

Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply discrimination or endorsement by the Gallatin County Weed Department.