COMMON TANSY

Tanacetum vulgare L.

Prohibited - Control

Common Names
Tansy, Bitter Buttons, Golden Buttons

Life Cycle
Herbaceous perennial

Native Range
Eurasia

Look-a-Likes
Goldenrods (pg 85)

Habitat
Found most often in open, disturbed areas typical of stream and river banks, trail edges, roadsides, gravel pits and old farmsteads or pastures. Can be found in riparian areas, but most often in dry, well drained soils in full sun.

Means of Spread
Spreads primarily by rhizomes and seeds. Seeds are lightweight and easily moved by wind, water, wildlife, equipment, etc.

Toxicity
Alkaloids in common tansy are toxic to humans and livestock if consumed in high quantities.

Identification
Plant - Herbaceous, perennial reaching 2 to 5 feet in height. Stems appear woody, are slightly hairy to smooth and at the base are purplish-red.

Leaves - Alternate, pinnately divided, toothed on edges and 2 to 12 inches long, typically smaller near the top of plants. Leaves are strongly aromatic (bitter) when crushed.

Flower - Single stems support multibranched, flat clusters of bright yellow button-like flowers. Each ¼ to ½ inch wide button is comprised of many small florets and the flower heads, like the leaves, are strongly aromatic.

Bloom Time - July to October

Seed and Fruit - Small, yellowish-brown, dry, 5-toothed crowned seeds.

Root - Extensive, sturdy and fibrous rhizome system. Broken sections easily resprout.

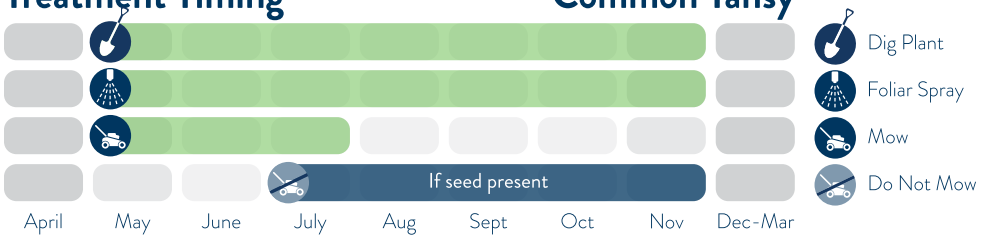
Management
Appropriate protective clothing including gloves and long sleeves should be worn.

Mechanical - Tilling can spread common tansy by spreading small root segments. Pulling also may leave root segments in the ground which may resprout. Mowing to prevent seed production should be timed just prior to flowering.

Chemical - Apply as foliar applications in spring.

Cultural - Goats and sheep will graze on common tansy, but is toxic to all livestock in high quantities.

Treatment Timing — Common Tansy



Fire - Can eliminate competition and create favorable conditions for common tansy by opening the canopy and preparing bare soil. Plants are top killed and follow up with other management methods is necessary.

Effective herbicide formulations: 2,4-D, glyphosate, imazapyr, metsulfuron.