

# COMMON TANSY

## *Tanacetum vulgare* L.

**Family:** Asteraceae (Sunflower).

**Other Scientific Names:** None.

**Other Common Names:** Garden tansy.

**Legal Status:** Regional Noxious: Bulkley-Nechako, Central Kootenay, Columbia-Shuswap, East Kootenay, North Okanagan.



## Identification

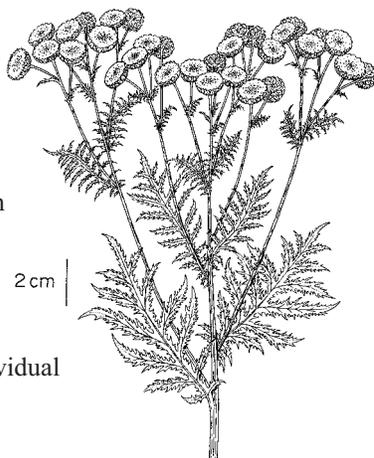
**Growth form:** Perennial forb.

**Flower:** Yellow flowers are numerous in flat-topped,

dense clusters at the tops of the plants. Button-like flower heads lack ray flowers.

**Seeds/Fruit:** Seeds (achenes) are yellowish brown with short, 5-toothed crowns.

**Leaves:** Alternate, deeply divided into numerous narrow, individual leaflets.



**Stems:** Mature plants are 0.4–1.5 m tall. The erect stems are often purplish red and dotted with glands.

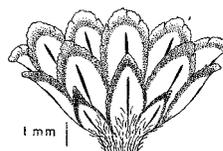
**Roots:** Rhizomatous.

**Seedling:** No information available.

### Similar Species

**Exotics:** None known.

**Natives:** None known.



## Impacts

**Agricultural:** Considered an undesirable forage and may be toxic to livestock.

**Ecological:** No confirmed information but may displace native species.

**Human:** Can be toxic if large quantities are consumed.

## Habitat and Ecology

**General requirements:** Common tansy grows at low- to mid-elevations along roadsides, on stream banks, and in disturbed habitats and pastures. It grows best in full sun and in fertile, well-drained soil.

**Distribution:** This weed is common in BC south of 55° N (Douglas et al. 1998) and is present in all agricultural reporting regions of the province. It is considered a major concern in the Kootenay, Okanagan, and Omineca regions.

**Historical:** Introduced from Europe as an ornamental and medicinal herb (Whitson et al. 1996). It has been

used for centuries for treating various ailments and as an insect repellent.

**Life cycle:** Flowering typically occurs from July to September.

**Mode of reproduction:** By seed and vegetatively from roots.

**Seed production:** No information available.

**Seed bank:** No information available.

**Dispersal:** No information available.

**Hybridization:** No information available.

## Management

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**Biocontrol:** None.

**Mechanical:** Common tansy can be mowed before flowering and seed-set to eliminate seed production. This method may have to be repeated to eliminate regrowth from rootstocks.

**Fire:** No information available.

**Herbicides:** Picloram, dicamba, and glyphosate can be used to manage this plant. The best time for treatment is between the early flower (bud) to bloom stage (Dow AgroSciences 1998). Consult the most recent edition of BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Crop Production Guides for specific recommendations.

**Before applying herbicides, read the label for full use and precautionary instructions.**

**Cultural/Preventive:** Prevent the establishment of new infestations by minimizing disturbance and seed dispersal, eliminating seed production, and maintaining healthy native communities.

### Integrated Management Summary

Mechanical methods, such as mowing or hand-cutting, are most effective in combination with other management measures because this plant is rhizomatous. Plants can regrow from severed roots, and cut stems may still produce viable seed. Manage the spread of common tansy by preventing seed production and dispersal, minimizing the spread of cut rootstocks, and establishing vigorous stands of perennial plants.

## References

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Douglas, G. W., G. B. Straley, D. Meidinger, and J. Pojar, eds. 1998. *Illustrated Flora of British Columbia*. Vol. 1: *Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons (Aceraceae through Asteraceae)*. Province of British Columbia.

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Common tansy. *Weeds of the West*. Western Society of Weed Science, in cooperation with the Western United States Land Grant Universities Cooperative Extension Services, Newark, CA.

