

Common tansy
(*Tanacetum vulgare*)

Currently in Montana, noxious weed infest about 8.2 million acres. Many of these state listed noxious weeds were brought to America as ornamentals for gardens, medicinal purposes, by accident in discarded soil from a ship's ballast, or unintentionally in bags of seed brought from other parts of the world. Whatever the cause of introduction non-native plant species have found their way onto Montana's state listed noxious weed list.

Common tansy is native to Eurasia and has a long history of use dating back to the ancient Greeks. Historically, common tansy was used for treating various medical conditions, preserving meats and as an insect repellent.

In 1936, Silver Bow County was the first county in Montana to report having common tansy. This noxious weed tends to inhabit roadsides, ditch banks, fence lines as well as other types of disturbed areas.

Common tansy reproduces through seeds that are yellowish brown in color with short five-toothed crowns. Seeds can be distributed and spread to new areas by wind and water as well as by transportation from animals and humans.

Common tansy is easily recognizable by the flat-topped clusters of small, button-like, yellow flowers that are ¼ to ½" diameter; flowers are produced in mid to late summer. The stalk of common tansy is often purplish-red in color and grows in clusters, giving the plant a bush like appearance. Leaves of common tansy are alternate, fern like in appearance and are divided almost to the center into about seven pairs of lobes which have saw-toothed edges.

The scent of common tansy is similar to camphor and the leaves are toxic if eaten in large quantities causing convulsions as well as liver and brain damage.

Common tansy can be controlled by various integrated weed management techniques. Do not hand pull common tansy as it has been reported to cause illness, suggesting that the toxins within the plant are absorbed through unprotected skin. If you think you've found common tansy or need help identifying common tansy on your property, contact the Gallatin County Weed District at:_____.

Please take a few moments to learn about noxious weeds. If noxious weeds are not currently a problem in your area, they may be in the near future. For more information about Montana's state listed noxious weeds, regulated plants, or weed species listed on your county weed list, please contact your local county weed district (can list weed district name here... ex: **Lewis & Clark County Weed District**) at _(406)_(Phone number)_. Or you can contact the Montana Department of Agriculture at (406) 444-5600.