

Tansy ragwort  
(*Senecio jacobaea*)

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.

Tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) is native to Eurasia. Places you are likely to find tansy ragwort include road sides, pastures, fields, cleared forested lands, and other disturbed areas. Stems are 8 to 36" in height. Leaves are 2 to 8" long, alternated and deeply cut giving the leaf a ragged appearance. Flowers generally have 13 petals and are bright yellow in color. Flowers bloom from June to November and are about 1" wide; blooming in dense flat-topped clusters of 20 to 60 flowers. During a single season on tansy ragwort plant can yield 2,000 to 2,500 flowers that produce 75,000 to 200,000 seeds, which are capable of remaining viable in the soil for up to 15 years! Tansy ragwort reproduces primarily through seeds. Seeds can be distributed and spread to new areas by wind and water and by transportation from animals and humans. Tansy ragwort can be controlled by various integrated weed management techniques such as hand pulling, biological control, and herbicides. Hand pulling needs to be done before the plant has gone to seed. Mowing is not a management option for tansy ragwort because new plants can re-sprout if the entire plant is not removed. In Montana, there are three biological control bugs that are being used on tansy ragwort infestations. The tansy ragwort flea beetle, ragwort seed head fly, and the cinnabar moth. These bio bugs have been very helpful in the management of tansy ragwort in both Lincoln and Flathead counties in northwestern Montana.

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.