

# Tansy ragwort

*Senecio Jacobaea L* Sunflower family

## Key identifying traits

- ❑ Small (< 1inch), golden, daisy-like flowers are arranged in clusters at ends of stems
- ❑ Single or multi-branched; 1-6' tall
- ❑ Leaves 2-8" long, alternate, deeply lobed
- ❑ Irregular, deeply cut leaf segments give "ragged" appearance
- ❑ Observed at a distance (mainly during flowering), plant structure resembles St. Johnswort



## Biology and ecology

- Biennial to short-lived, tap-rooted perennial
- Reproduces by seed; flowers July to September
- High alkaloid content makes all plant parts toxic to cattle, horses and, to some extent, sheep
- Invades log landings, roads and other openings in forested areas; widespread in western WA



## Control

*Prevention* - Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of equipment/vehicles recently used in western WA or OR and not thoroughly cleaned

*Biological* - Three established agents are working well in western WA, OR and CA; not practical for the small amounts of plants found in eastern WA

*Cultural* - Competitive vegetation helps reduce open spaces for invasion

*Mechanical* - Digging or pulling when soil conditions are moist is effective; needs to be before bloom or, if after, bag or burn plants in a pile as appropriate; seed bank will be present for years

*Chemical* - Several effective at label rates; best timing is spring during rosette stage although fall rosettes can be treated as well; new infestations are usually identified when in flower, requiring a combination of mechanical and chemical control over more than one year



*Where found* - A few small, isolated infestations are found in Stevens County in disturbed openings in forest settings and along backcountry roads.