



Control Options for Tansy Ragwort

General information

Control efforts for tansy ragwort are best initiated before the plants flower. If tansy ragwort is budding or flowering, the flower heads must be destroyed to prevent seed formation. If the buds/flowers are left on the plants, the plants will still produce seed, despite being uprooted or sprayed. Flower heads can be destroyed through thorough burning immediately after pulling/digging (be sure burning is allowed on the site and follow all legal requirements). Otherwise, flower heads should be sealed in plastic garbage bags and disposed as garbage. Do not compost buds or flowers. Do not leave plants where they can be eaten by livestock, as dead plants are still poisonous. Regardless of which control option is chosen, sites must be monitored and control repeated for the weed to be eradicated. Remember, every tansy ragwort plant that goes to seed on your site has the potential to add 150,000 seeds to the soil. If soil is disturbed during control efforts, it is best to reseed the disturbed area with a desired species, to prevent further establishment of weeds. Encouraging grass growth through the use of applied fertilizers and/or rotational grazing will help prevent the reestablishment of weed species.



Manual/Mechanical Techniques

Tansy ragwort can be controlled through hand digging and/or pulling. Plants are easiest to pull after plants have bolted but before flowering (elongation of flowering stem has started), and when the soil is moist. When pulling, try to remove as much of the root as possible to prevent regrowth.

Mowing is not an effective control for tansy ragwort. Tansy ragwort that has been mowed will often develop into a perennial plant, coming back year after year, rather than a biennial which ends its life cycle in two years.

Chemical Recommendations



Tansy ragwort can be controlled using specific herbicides. Tansy ragwort should be sprayed in spring or early summer before flower buds appear to ensure plants do not produce seed after being sprayed. Spraying can also be done in the fall, to target rosettes that will overwinter. When using herbicides, always read and follow label directions for rates, spraying conditions, personal protective equipment and grazing intervals. Do not spray when it is windy or raining or when rain is forecast. Do not mow sprayed plants for at least 2 weeks after herbicide application.

For most infestations of tansy ragwort, plants should be treated individually (spot-sprayed). Spray plants until they are just wet. For large or dense infestations, it may be necessary to broadcast spray the entire area. Herbicides should not be sprayed within 60 feet of water bodies and creeks, without further consultation with the Noxious Weed Board. Remember, it is the herbicide applicators responsibility to apply the product in accordance to the instructions on the label. Care should be used in allowing livestock to graze in areas where tansy ragwort has been treated with herbicides, as the dying plants may be more attractive to grazing animals.

For chemically treating tansy ragwort, the Whatcom County Noxious Weed Board recommends using a selective broadleaf herbicide. Glyphosate (the active chemical in herbicides such as Roundup) is generally not recommended, as it will kill any vegetation it hits, including surrounding grass. Maintaining the grass will assist in weed control efforts by shading any weed seeds in the soil, making it more difficult for seeds to germinate. Additionally, much of the glyphosate-based herbicide formulations available to the public are not concentrated enough to kill tansy ragwort.

The following herbicides are recommended for control of tansy ragwort. Remember, it is the herbicide applicators responsibility to apply the product in accordance to the instructions on the label.

- **Always read and understand the label of the herbicides you choose to use.**
- **More is NOT better when using herbicides, and may actually hinder the ability of the herbicide to injure the entire target plant, including the roots, if the solution is too strong. This wastes money and effort and puts more product into the environment than is necessary. ALWAYS follow the recommended rates on the label.**
- **With all herbicides, when you apply them is as important as how you apply them.**

2,4-D

There are many herbicides containing 2,4-D. Tansy ragwort can be successfully treated using either low-volume ester or amine formulations of 2,4-D. Best results are obtained when plants are small or in the rosette stage, either in the spring or fall.

2,4-D + Dicamba

This combination of chemicals is contained in herbicides such as Weedmaster, All-in-One Weed Killer and some Weed-B-Gon. It can be applied to tansy ragwort at any time up to flowering, and again in the fall.

2,4-D + Triclopyr

This combination of chemicals can be found in herbicides such as Crossbow. It can be applied to tansy ragwort at any time up to flowering, and again in the fall.

The mention of a specific product brand name in this document is not, and should not be construed as an endorsement or as a recommendation for the use of that product. Chemical control options may differ for private, commercial and government agency users. Herbicide information is taken from the WSU Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook 2010.

