



903 N. Black Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 582-3265

COMMON TANSY MANAGEMENT TIPS

Common tansy, a member of the Sunflower family, is a perennial forb. The roots are creeping rhizomes. The yellow-orange, button-like flowers are arranged in dense clusters that form a flat-top appearance. Leaves are fern-like. Reproduction is mainly vegetative, but also occurs by seed. **Seeds remain viable for up to three years.** Plants usually reach heights of one to six feet tall and are very aromatic. Common tansy can form large infestations and displace native vegetation. It may reduce biodiversity (particularly in riparian areas), reduce availability of livestock forage, and is toxic to horses, cattle and humans.



Management and control efforts should focus on reducing seed production and depleting root reserves. Control efforts must be planned for many consecutive years on the existing site in order to prevent seed formation/dispersal and to monitor for, and appropriately treat, any new plants that emerge from seeds or roots.

Effective control measures for the management of common tansy include:

- 1. Mechanical (hand pulling & mowing):** Diligent hand pulling may provide control of very small infestations, but is not feasible on more established infestations. Wear gloves when hand pulling. Mowing before bloom will reduce flowering and seed production, but plants will re-sprout from roots.
- 2. Herbicide: Always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** Calibrate your equipment to ensure that you are adding the proper amount of herbicide to your tank. The following herbicides are commonly used to control common tansy. **Do NOT use these herbicides in lawns, turf or ornamental settings - read the label.** *To ensure good herbicide uptake and the most effective control, apply herbicides when there is an abundance of green foliage.*

Mixing rates in small backpack or hand sprayers are as follows:

*Escort XP:	1/5 – 1/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Telar XP:	1/5 – 1/2 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Opensight:	1/2 – 2/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Chaparral:	1/2 - 2/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Cimarron Plus:	1/4 - 1/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.

Rates in large sprayers are as follows:

*Escort XP:	1 - 2 oz herbicide per acre.
*Telar XP:	1 – 2.5 oz herbicide per acre.
*Opensight:	2.5 – 3.3 oz herbicide per acre.
*Chaparral:	2.5 – 3.3 oz herbicide per acre.
*Cimarron Plus:	1.25 – 2 oz herbicide per acre.

NOTE: Adding 2,4-D to your tank with any of the above herbicides may improve performance. Add at the rate of 1 – 2 quarts per acre for large sprayers or 1 – 2 ounces per gallon of water for backpack sprayers.

NOTE: Adding a surfactant to your tank mix may enhance the performance of your herbicide and is required for certain herbicides (read the label). Add 0.5 - 1 oz per gallon of water for backpack sprayers or 1 – 2 pints per 100 gallons for large sprayers.

*** denotes that a surfactant is required for the herbicide to be effective**

- 3. Cultural (tilling & revegetation):** Repeated tilling may effectively control this plant, however root fragments may be spread on tilling equipment. Plant competition can prevent the invasion of common tansy, so it is important to promote healthy desirable plant communities. If revegetation is necessary, plant species that will be competitive and adapt to the site.
- 4. Grazing:** Grazing with sheep may decrease common tansy populations and increase grass abundance if done properly.
- 5. Integrated management:** Management of common tansy is more effective when more than one strategy is used.

Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply discrimination or endorsement by the Gallatin County Weed District.