TANSY RAGWORT

Senecio jacobaea

CONTROL

Hand Pulling

Hand pulling can be an effective method of control for small patches of tansy ragwort. Hand pulling must be done throughout the growing season to ensure that plants do not flower and produce seed. Be sure to remove all flowering or seed producing plants from the site in plastic bags to be burned. It is recommended that the site then be treated with herbicide.

Mowing

Mowing tansy ragwort is only recommended if herbicide treatment is going to occur soon after. While repeated mowing may reduce the number of seeds produced in the short-term, it also stimulates the plants to grow lateral shoots that often flower on shorter stems below the blades of a mower. Tilling can also be effective if used repeatedly to ensure the exhaustion of the seed bank.

Biological control

Three biocontrols have been released for tansy ragwort, the cinnabar moth, the ragwort seed fly and the tansy ragwort flea beetle. While all are considered established in areas that have an established tansy ragwort infestation, there are currently no known infestations of tansy ragwort in Missoula County. Biocontrols are not a recommended method of control for tansy ragwort in Missoula County.

Grazing

Tansy is toxic to all livestock especially cattle and horses. Grazing tansy ragwort can often increase the density of infestations if done improperly (similar to mowing). Sheep have been used, however, to prevent seed production in pastures prior to bolt. Grazing is not a recommended method of control for tansy ragwort infestations if they are found in Missoula County.

Ideal Timing for Treatment Options

Spring	Summer	Fall
Hand-pulling		
	Mowing	
Grazing		
Foliar		Foliar

Herbicide

Tansy ragwort infestations can be effectively controlled with a number of herbicides, though multiple treatments over a series of years are needed to effectively eradicate it. Tansy ragwort also dies very slowly from herbicide, so allow plenty of time for the plants to decay, especially if you are planning on grazing the area (4 to 6 weeks). The herbicide chart on the back lists approved controls for tansy ragwort. Always consult product labels and read them carefully to ensure correct species/land management usage and chemical application.

Tansy Ragwort Life Cycle

Life Cycle	Root	Leaves	Stems	Flower	Seed/Fruit	Toxic
Biennial or short-lived perennial	Taproot	Rosette has 10 to 20 leaves with web-like hairs. Basal leaves 2 to 10 inches long, lobed into leaflets and leaflets lobed again. Stem leaves alternate, evenly distributed along stem, lower leaves larger. Strong odor when crushed.	Commonly 1 to 3 feet tall but up to 6 feet. One to several stems may branch near the top of plant. Stems and leaf stalks often purplish and have cobwebby hairs.	Daisy-like flower heads, yellow petals, yellow center, less than 1 inch diameter, clustered on top of plant.	Tipped by white hairlike plumes.	Horses, cattle, sheep, goats, humans

Herbicides for Tansy Ragwort, *Senecio jacobaea*

Active Ingredient	Rate	Efficacy	Comments
Aminocyclopyrachlor + chlorosulfuron	1.8-3.2 oz/ acre + 0.7-1.3oz/acre	Apply to actively growing plants in spring.	Broad spectrum control of broadleaf species. May suppress or injure certain annual grass species. Avoid root zone, avoid applying more than 11oz product/acre per year. Use an adjuvant.
Aminopyralid	4-5 fl oz/ acre	Apply to actively growing plants in the rosette.	A broadleaf herbicide, more selective. Safe on grasses, longer residual and higher activity than clopyralid. Will kill most legumes. Do not ex-ceed 7 oz/yr. Use nonionic surfactant.
Clopyralid	0.67-1.33 pt/acre	In Spring up to the flower bud stage.	A broadleaf herbicide, more selective. Safe on grasses. Will kill most legumes.
Clopyralid+ 2,4-D	1.5 qt. + 1.5 qt /acre	Apply to actively growing weeds from full rosette to early flower bud	Crop rotation restrictions while using product, up to 4 years potential harm, refer to label for trans-ferring livestock back into broadleaf crop areas.
Picloram	1.5-2 pt./ acre	Apply at rosette to flower bud stage in spring or to new rosettes in fall.	Most broadleaf plants are susceptible to Picloram, relatively safe on established grasses. Long soil residual activity and some applicators note that it can injure young or germinating grasses.
Dicamba	1-2 pt./acre	Apply to rapidly growing plants in the rosette stage. Smaller plants are more effectively controlled.	Broadleaf-selective herbicide effective earlier in season. Limited soil residual, avoid drift to sensi-tive crops. Do not apply when temps are 80degreesF. Will kill most legumes.
Triclopyr	2pt/acre	Postemergence to rapidly growing plants	Broadleaf-selective, safe on most grasses. Low volatile ester until sprayed on hard surface in high temperature.
Chlorosulfuron	1.5 oz/acre	In fall to new rosettes or to rosettes in spring before bolting.	Mixed selectivity, generally safe on grasses. Fall application my injure bromes. Use surfactant. Can be used in late season to reduce seed production with long soil residual activity.
Imazapyr	2-3 pt/acre	Preemergence or postemer-gence.	Non-selective herbicide.
Metsulfuron	0.5-1 oz/are	Apply to young rapidly growing weeds in spring before flowering	Mixed selectivity, generally safe on grasses. Some soil residual activity. Use a surfactant. Can be tankmixed with 2,4-D and/or dicamba.

Information on diagnostic identifying characteristics adapted from "Montana's Noxious Weeds" by Pokorny and Mangold, Montana State University Extension Bulletin EB0159.

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MISSOULA COUNTY
WEED DISTRICT