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TANSY RAGWORT MANAGEMENT TIPS

Tansy ragwort, a member of the Sunflower family, is a biennial or a short-lived perennial forb with a taproot. The daisy-like flower has yellow petals and a yellow center. Mature plants usually grow one to three feet tall, but can reach six feet in height. A single, large tansy ragwort plant can produce up to 200,000 seeds. The root system consists of extensive light-colored roots that spread and produce shoots when stimulated by mechanical treatment. **Seeds can remain viable for up to six years.** Tansy ragwort is typically found in pastures, forest clearings and waste places and is often associated with Canada thistle. Tansy ragwort can reduce forage yields by as much as 50% in pastures. Tansy ragwort can be toxic to cattle, deer, horses and goats because of the alkaloids found in all plant parts. These alkaloids get stored in the liver where they can cause liver degradation, reduced weight gain, reduced butterfat content in cow's milk and sudden death in apparently healthy animals. The alkaloids in tansy ragwort pollen also taint honey by making it bitter and unmarketable.



Management and control efforts must be planned for many years at the existing site in order to prevent seed formation and deplete root reserves. It is critical to monitor for and appropriately treat any new plants that emerge.

Effective control measures for the management of tansy ragwort include:

- 1. Mechanical (hand pulling & digging):** Hand pulling and digging are recommended when the infestation is small and when most of the taproot can be extracted. Place flowering plants in bags to prevent seed dispersal. For effective control, the area must be continually monitored for plants that regenerate from root fragments. Wear gloves when hand pulling.
- 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 tansy ragwort. **Do NOT use these herbicides in lawns, turf or ornamental settings – read the label.** *For the most effective control, apply herbicides at the rosette stage either in the spring or mid-fall, as the plants are actively growing.*

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

Milestone:	1 – 1.25 teaspoons herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
GrazonNext HL:	1 oz 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.
*Escort XP:	1/8 - 1/5 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Telar XP:	1/5 – 1/2 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
DuraCor:	0.5 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.

Rates in large sprayers are as follows:

Milestone:	5 - 7 oz herbicide per acre.
GrazonNext HL:	1.5 pints herbicide per acre.
*Opensight:	2.5 – 3 oz herbicide per acre.
*Chaparral:	2.5 – 3 oz herbicide per acre.
*Escort XP:	0.5 – 1 oz herbicide per acre.
*Telar XP:	1 – 2.6 oz herbicide per acre.
DuraCor:	18 oz herbicide per acre.

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 (pasture health & revegetation):** Plant competition can slow the spread of tansy ragwort, so maintain healthy desirable plant communities. Proper grazing management in pastures is important, as tansy ragwort will readily invade overgrazed areas. If revegetation is necessary, plant species that will be competitive and adapt to the site. Plant a diversity of perennial grass and forb species that occupy many niches and will use available resources to compete over time.
- 4. Integrated management:** Management of tansy ragwort 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.