



In Colorado, flowering typically starts in June lasting to September. Seeds are yellowish brown achenes with short, five-toothed crowns. One plant can produce up to about 50,000 seeds. Seeds is well adapted to cold environments with germination rates as high as 70% (Gucker 2009). Seed longevity is at least two years, and most seeds remain near the parent plant since they lack wind-dispersed structures (Gucker 2009). Roots are robust, often with rhizomes that can be woody, coiled and at least 51 inches below the soil surface (Gucker 2009). Rhizomatous spread occurs, but reproduction is primarily by seed (Gucker 2009).

Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare* L.) is a perennial plant in the Asteraceae family, also known as golden buttons and garden tansy.

Mature plants range from 1.5 to seven feet tall. The stem leaves are alternate and oblong. Leaves are deeply divided with four to ten pairs of leaflets. Glands appear on the leaf surface. The leaf margins are dentate. From afar, leaves have a fern-like appearance and have a strong odor when crushed. Stems are stiff, upright, ribbed often purplish-red to green in color, and hairless. Common tansy has only button-like perfect disc flowers; it lacks ray flowers. Yellow disc flowers are numerous and arranged as a flattened dense cluster at the terminal end of the stems. The outer ring of disc flowers are pistillate. Ovate shaped phyllaries that surround the head are arranged in series. Phyllary margins are lighter in color than the center.

Common tansy is often confused with *Achillea millefolium* ('Moonshine' yarrow), which is a similar height, leaf structure, and has yellow terminal flowers. When common tansy is not in flower, it can also be confused with *Conium maculatum* (poison hemlock) because of its leaf structure, the stiff ribbed stems and corymbiform flower head.

In Colorado, common tansy is mostly found along the banks of irrigation ditches, streams, seeps and roads (EDD-MapS 2018). It is also found in residential areas as an ornamental, and occasionally on semi-arid rangelands and pastures (EDDMapS 2018). It survives cold, prefers wet environments and full sun but can tolerate partial shade (Gucker 2009). Common tansy is reported predominantly in the northern portion of the United States (EDDMapS 2018).

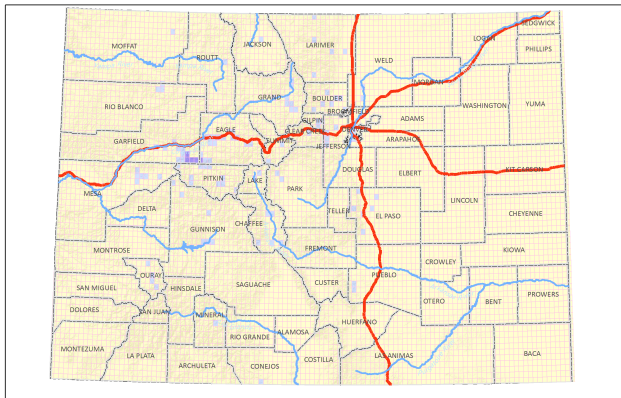


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Common Tansy

Tanacetum vulgare L.

common tansy
Tanacetum vulgare 2016 Statewide Distribution in Colorado Based on 2016 Quarterquad and EDDMapS Field Survey Data Up to Approximately 313 Infested Acres



Acres estimated to nearest whole acre by county weed supervisors and other data sources; compiled by Colorado Department of Agriculture



With adequate moisture common tansy can outcompete and displace native and desirable species; allelopathy may be a factor (Gucker 2009). When stands get robust, it can reduce irrigation water flow (Gucker 2009). Its seeds float, so water can be a vector and downstream riparian corridors and irrigation channels can become infested. It tends to be fairly aggressive and difficult to control.

Key ID Points

1. Yellow button-like composite flower heads that lack ray flowers
2. Fern-like pinnately divided alternate leaves, foul smell
3. Ribbed stiff tall stems
4. Dense woody-like root mass

Integrated Weed Management Recommendations

Effective integrated management means using a variety of eradication methods along with restoration, prevention of seed production and dispersal, and monitoring. Maintain robust healthy native landscapes. Restore degraded sites. Avoid soil disturbance. Prevent seed production and seeds from dispersing, e.g. on contaminated equipment. Rest sites until restored. Modify land use practices. Use methods appropriate for the site, other plants present and land uses.



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CULTURAL

Common tansy prefers bare mineral soil, high light and few competitors to germinate, so maintain deep mulch and litter cover and select shade producing species. Since common tansy forms robust rhizomatous roots, select plants that will have equally or more competitive below ground root structures that includes an assemblage of shrubs, forbs, cool and warm season grasses, annuals and perennials. Use locally adapted species that are ecologically appropriate for the site and ecoregion to improve competitiveness. Implement whole site restoration, where needed. Common tansy prefers frequent disturbance and flooding, so where possible, modify the hydrology and disturbance regimes until control is established, especially where dense colonies exist.



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BIOLOGICAL

Common tansy is toxic to cattle, not recommended for horses, however confined domestic sheep and goats eat it during early flower (Gucker 2009). Targeted grazing can be effective, but opens the canopy for new seeding or shoot growth; repeat integrated entries with chemical (Gucker 2009). Non-targeted grazing should be light, with less than 60% defoliation to maintain competitiveness against common tansy (Gucker 2009). There are no biological control agents authorized in Colorado that would effectively control this species.



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MECHANICAL

Because of common tansy's robust roots and prolific seed production, mechanical methods are best for residential areas and small infestations. Remove all root biomass or sever roots below the soil surface early in the season to reduce energy storage and before seed production. Mowing, chopping, hand-pulling, and deadheading leaves roots behind and stimulates flower production, requiring consecutive years of season-long treatments. Mowing disperses seeds and expands the infested area. Collect, bag, and dispose of or destroy all flowers; seeds could mature and germinate if left on the ground. Its large size may increase fire hazard. High intensity prescribed fire may top kill plants but leave roots mildly affected (Gucker 2009). Combine prescribed fire with other methods to improve treatment efficacy (Gucker 2009).



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CHEMICAL

NOTE: Herbicide recommendations to control common tansy in pastures and rangeland are found at: <https://goo.gl/TvWnv9>. Rates are approximate and based on equipment with an output of 30 gal/acre. Follow the label for exact rates. Consult local turf and ornamental experts for herbicides appropriate for residential settings. Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!

Common tansy

Tanacetum vulgare L.

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