



Noxious Weed Fact Bulletin

A partnership between Island County Noxious Weed Board & Whidbey Island Conservation District

Tansy Ragwort, *Senecio jacobaea*



This weed is one with widespread local distribution, **Tansy Ragwort, *Senecio jacobaea***. It is listed as a Class B **regulated** weed in Island County, meaning that property owners are required to control it. It is toxic to livestock if ingested, and retains its toxicity after drying, so it can ruin a hay crop if present even in small quantities.



Tansy ragwort is typically a biennial plant, but when under stress it has the vegetative regenerative capacity of a perennial. It reproduces primarily by seed, and overwinters in the seed or rosette stage. Tansy Ragwort passes through the first growing season in the vegetative rosette stage before becoming reproductively mature. It produces seeds in its second year, so early eradication is the best way to control it. Mowing doesn't usually kill it, so hand pulling works best – but be sure to wear gloves, as the toxic alkaloids in the plant can be absorbed through the skin. If using herbicides, the best timing of application is when the plant is actively growing in the rosette stage either in the spring or mid-fall.

This link to the King County website is a good source of information:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/tansy-ragwort.aspx>



Thanks for your interest in weeds, and as always, if you have more questions you can contact Janet Stein, Island County Noxious Weed Coordinator, at 678-7992, or at: janet.stein@wsu.edu.

For more information on Tansy Ragwort, visit the Washington Noxious Weed Control Board website here: <http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/detail.asp?weed=119>