

## Management:

Hand pulling tansy before it flowers works well. Be sure to wear gloves to avoid irritation. Digging may help if soil is hard. Remove as much of the root as possible to prevent regrowth. Place discarded tansy in a trash bag and put them in the regular trash bin. Del Norte Solid Waste will accept bagged tansy free of charge.

Mowing is not recommended as it will promote vegetative growth. Tansy can flower at ground level after mowing.

The tansy flea beetle and cinnabar moth are biological controls that have been introduced to combat tansy. If you happen to find a large population of these insects, the Del Norte County Department of Agriculture will be happy to collect and relocate them.



Cinnabar moth larvae on tansy

Report nuisance tansy and tansy growing on public lands to the Del Norte County Department of Agriculture at: 707-464-0878.

**Tansy is the only weed addressed by a Del Norte County ordinance.**

## **County Municipal Code 7.40.50 Spread Of Tansy Deemed Infraction**

It is an infraction to:

- Allow tansy ragwort to flower on your property within 150 feet of property lines where tansy is being controlled or not present.
- Sell or transport hay containing flowering tansy that will cause the spread of tansy to a non-infested property.
- To transport mature or flowering tansy plants in an unprotected load that could allow for seed to spread.
- To discard flowering, or mature tansy plants, or plant parts within 150 feet of a neighbor's property.
- To fail to collect mowed flowering tansy within 150 feet of neighbor's property.
- To fail to remove scattered tansy from property within 10 days of receiving a written notice.

Each neighbor affected is considered a separate offence.

Failure to remove tansy after receiving a written notice may result in a civil citation.

[https://delnortecounty.municipalcodeonline.com/book?type=ordinances#name=7.40.50\\_Spread\\_Of\\_Tansy\\_Deemed\\_Infraction](https://delnortecounty.municipalcodeonline.com/book?type=ordinances#name=7.40.50_Spread_Of_Tansy_Deemed_Infraction)

## **Tansy Ragwort**

*Senecio jacobaea*



Del Norte County  
Department of Agriculture  
236 Williams Drive  
Crescent City, CA 95531  
707-464-0878

**History:**

Tansy ragwort is native to Europe and Asia. It is believed to have been introduced to North America through ballast water from ships in the early 1900's.

**Toxicity:**

Tansy contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids, which primarily affect the liver. Tansy is toxic to humans and livestock. Tansy was responsible for killing thousands of livestock animals, mainly horses and cattle between the 1920's and 1970's. Honey and dairy products produced from bees or dairy animals that consume tansy also contain these alkaloids. Tansy is bitter and many animals will not eat tansy if other food is available. Lethal doses of tansy are usually the result of contaminated hay or feed.

**Distribution:**

Tansy is well established in the Pacific Northwest of North America. It is scattered throughout the northern states and extends into Canada and Alaska.

**Life Cycles:**

Tansy is a biennial, forming a rosette at ground level the first year and sending up flowering stems the second year. Adult flowering tansy can produce up to 150,000 wind dispersed seeds that can remain viable in the soil for 10 years.

**Habitat:**

Tansy will tolerate a wide range of habitats but prefers cool, wet climates, with well-drained soil and full sun. It is often found in pastures, rangelands, and disturbed areas.

**Description:**

Tansy grows as a rosette the first year with many ruffled dark-green leaves. The rosettes have the highest concentration of the alkaloids.



Flowering stalks from 2 to 4 feet tall shoot up from the rosette during the second year of growth. The leaves are green on top, light-green underneath, and deeply lobed. The leaves become sparser and thinner as they grow.



The flowers grow in clusters at the tops of the stalks, have 13 ray petals that are bright-yellow, daisylike, and grow out from a yellow-orange central disk. Flowering usually occurs from June to November.

