

Common Tansy

Tanacetum vulgare

Description: Common tansy is a perennial that grows 2-5 feet high with a single stem that branches near the top. Numerous button-like yellow flowers form flat-topped clusters up to 4 inches across. Leaves are feathery or fern-like, alternate on the stem, and strongly fragrant when crushed. It spreads from seed dispersal and vegetatively from roots. Flowers turn to dark brown seeds in the fall.

Ecological Threat: Common tansy is still cultivated in gardens across the state and spreads easily into the wild, where it forms dense single-species colonies. It is most prevalent in the Arrowhead but is spreading west and south.

Control Methods:

Mechanical-Mowing before seed production can help limit its spread, but pulling is not effective because tansy can regenerate through root fragments.

Chemical- Spot-spraying with broadleaf herbicide can be effective, but areas should be rechecked for sprouting.

