

# Invasive Species Highlight

## Common Tansy

Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) is native to Eurasia, brought to the US in the 1600s as an ornamental plant. Since, it has naturalized and spread westward over time. Common tansy is a prohibited control species, meaning efforts must be made to prevent seed maturation and dispersal of plants into new areas as well as it being illegal to transport, propagate, or sell.

### Environmental Impact

Common tansy forms dense stands capable of outcompeting native plants. Its aggressive growth can greatly reduce pasture capacity and limit desirable forage, while also posing toxicity risks to livestock if consumed. Dense infestations can hinder tree establishment, negatively affecting timber production, reforestation, and habitat restoration.



### Identification

- Emits a strong odor when crushed.
- Perennial plant with multiple upright stems (3'-6' tall) and can give a shrub-like appearance.
- Stems are red to purple at the base. Can be smooth to slightly hairy.
- Leaves are fern-like, alternate, toothed, 2"-12" long
- Flowers are bright yellow, button-like discs (no petals), that grow in flat-topped clusters between July and October.
- Seeds are small, yellow to brown in color and have five-toothed crowns, dispersed by wind and water with up to 50,000 per plant.
- Roots are fibrous and resprout easily from fragments.
- Reproduce by seeds and rhizomes, forming dense stands.



### Look-alikes

Goldenrod species (native): flowers have ray petals surrounding a central, disk-like florets and have alternate, simple leaves.



### Report new occurrences

Submit a report through EDDMaps, iNaturalist, Seek or by contacting your local SWCD.

Visit our website for additional Invasive Species Highlights - [winonaswcd.org](http://winonaswcd.org)

For any questions, call Abbi Hoffman - 507-523-2171 x113

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### References and Resources

- “Common tansy” Gupta et al. *University of Minnesota Extension*. <https://extension.umn.edu/identify-invasive-species/common-tansy>
- “Common Tansy” *Minnesota Department of Agriculture*. <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/weedcontrol/noxiouslist/commontansy>
- “Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)” *Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/commontansy.html>
- “Minnesota Noxious Weeds” *Minnesota Department of Transportation*. <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/roadsides/vegetation/pdf/noxiousweeds.pdf>
- “Minnesota’s invasive tansy spread impacted by land use” *Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center*. <https://mitppc.umn.edu/news/minnesotas-invasive-tansy-spread-impacted-land-use>
- “*Tanacetum vulgare* (Common tansy)” *Minnesota Wildflowers*. <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/common-tansy>