

Common tansy

Tanacetum vulgare

Description

Introduced to North America for medicinal purposes and as an ornamental plant; toxic.

Habit

Perennial forb, grows to a height of 2-5 ft.

Leaves

Alternate and pinnately compound with deeply divided, toothed fernlike leaflets. 4-10 in long and 1.5-3 in wide and strongly scented when crushed.

Stems

Erect; 2-5 ft tall; grows in clusters; slightly hairy; woody and purplish red near ground.

Flowers

Yellow in color, daisy-like flower heads, 1/3 in wide and arranged in a showy, flat-topped inflorescence at the top of the stem; blooms from July through October.

Fruits and Seeds

Produce numerous tufted seeds, spread by wind



and water.

Habitat

Native to Europe. Found in open disturbed areas, roadsides, pastures, fields, prairies, hedgerows, gardens and naturally disturbed environments, such as flood-scoured river shores.

Reproduction

By seed that are dispersed by wind and water or expansion of short rhizomes.

Similar

Stinking willie (*Senecio jacobaea*), a poisonous pasture weed & non-aromatic; Lake Huron tansy (*Tanacetum bipinnatum*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Can be cut, tilled or dug up; removing entire rootstock. Mow prior to flowering, repeat mowing as needed to prevent seed set. Effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate.

Credits

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