

PNW IPC Invasive Plant Focus for February and March 2008



Botanical Name – *Senecio jacobea*

Common Name – Tansy Ragwort, Tansy Butterweed

Family – Asteraceae

Duration/ growth form – biennial, short-lived perennial/ forb

Native Range – Europe and western Asia

Description – Erect, slightly woody stem base, 30-100 cm tall. Leaves 2-3 pinnatifid (deeply lobed), 5-20 cm long. Flowers- large heads of yellow, ~ 13 rays that are 5-10 mm long. Flat rosette with green, wavy leaves the first year.

Threats – Tansy ragwort is a serious noxious weed in many other countries, New Zealand, Australia, S Africa, North and South America. This species is very competitive with native species and causes a significant loss of pasture land and production as it is notorious for being poisonous to all types of livestock. All parts of the plant contain pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PA's), a group of naturally occurring chemicals producing a chronic delayed toxicity impacting principally the liver. *Senecio* species contain more than 30 toxic factors which can be fatal if grazed extensively.

Background – Tansy ragwort is found on both coast of North America, notably on the Pacific coast and west of the Cascades. This species was first recorded in the Pacific northwest region in Vancouver in 1913 and in by 1922 in Oregon. Several biocontrol agents were introduced on the west coast in the 1950's and 1960's, the ragwort flea beetle, ragwort seed fly and cinnabar moth.

Biology – The plants flower between June and October. The flowers of *Senecio jacobea* are composed of ray achenes and disk achenes which vary in morphology, dispersal mechanisms and germination. The seeds are primarily dispersed by the wind, yet also can be transported by water, on the fur of animals, in contaminated hay and in soil attached to vehicles. The seeds have no known dormancy, and are viable for several years. The plant may regenerate after damage, producing new rosettes and can be propagated from root fragments.

Take a look at the Plant Assessment Form –

<http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/PAF/Senecio%20jacobaea.pdf>

Other links for *Senecio jacobea* (Tansy ragwort)

<http://www.nps.gov/archive/redw/tansy.htm>

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/senejaco.html>

<http://www.weeds.asn.au/weeds/txts/ragwort.html>

<http://www.paghat.com/tansyragwort.html>

Reference Link