

Common Tansy

Tanacetum vulgare



Common Name: Common Tansy
Scientific Name: *Tanacetum vulgare*
Family: Asteraceae

Description

Common Tansy is an attractive robust perennial plant that grows up to 150 cm tall and forms flat-topped heads of bright yellow, button-like flowers. The plant emits a strong pungent smell when crushed. It is mildly toxic. It grows well in full sun and usually in disturbed sites such as roadsides, riverbanks and beaches. It is considered a noxious weed in some areas of BC, Alberta, and Washington.

Range in Yukon

Presently known from Whitehorse, Marsh Lake, Kathleen Lake and the Alaska, Klondike, and Robert Campbell highways. It is becoming popular as a hardy garden plant.

Similar Species

Lake Huron Tansy (*Tanacetum bipinnatum*) is a native species mainly known from the Porcupine and Yukon rivers (down river of Dawson City). It grows 60 cm tall and has 2-4 heads.

Ecological Impact

Common Tansy can grow along ditches and streams and restrict water flow. The plant is somewhat poisonous to humans and livestock.

Control

All known Yukon infestations have been small and have been controlled by pulling; larger plants may have to be dug up. The seeds of Common Tansy continue to mature after pulling. You may put plants into clear garbage bags and then leave them in the sun to kill off the plants and roast the seeds. Herbicide control may be required in large populations. When dealing with this plant, protective clothing should be worn to keep the plants toxins off the skin.



Photo: Andrea Altherr