

Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)

POISONOUS

Description

A perennial that reproduces by both seed and short rhizomes. Stems are branched, erect, often purplish-red, and dotted with glands. There are many stems per plant and can grow up to 1.5 m tall. Leaves alternate on the stem and are deeply divided into numerous narrow, individual leaflets with toothed edges. Flowers are yellow, numerous, and button-like, occurring in dense, flat-topped clusters at the tops of the stems (0.5-1 cm wide). Seeds are yellowish brown achenes with short, five-toothed crowns. CAUTION: Plants contain alkaloids that are toxic to both humans and livestock if consumed in large quantities.



Key Identifiers

- ✓ Short rhizomes
- ✓ Fern-like, aromatic leaves
- ✓ Yellow, button like flowers in clusters

Location in Canada

Common Tansy has been reported in all Canadian provinces with the exception of Nunavut and the Yukon.

Resources

<http://www.invasiveplants.ab.ca/Downloads/FS-CommonTansy.pdf>

Similar species

Lake Huron Tansy (*Tanacetum huronense*) - has leaves that are usually hairy, scarcely dotted with glands, deeply twice or more divided leaves and flowers usually measure 1-2 cm wide.

Tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) can be distinguished from common tansy by the presence of ray florets and ruffled leaves.

Mayweed chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) can be distinguished from common tansy by the presence of white ray florets and leaves that are divided two to three times into linear segments.

