

THE ENEMY: Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare* L.)

Strategy: (not Tansy ragwort) is a rhizomatous perennial plant in the aster family that we find most common along our canal, ditch banks, and pastures in eastern Idaho. This plant has a fern looking basal leaf and grows 4-6 foot, woody-like stems of which produces clusters of yellow flowers. I like the strong scent that this plant puts out, although most women do not. Like many undesirable plants, this is one that is sticking up above the snow, thus it was not a beneficial plant.

Attack: This plant needs large amounts of water to grow, hence, why we find it along ditch banks and flood irrigated fields. It consumes massive amount of water and once established the clumps of weeds grow larger and larger, which allows the plant to choke out desirable species. The seeds are rather large and can float down the ditches and canals and infest neighboring lands very quickly. It is toxic to livestock, even if incidentally ingested.

DEFENSE: Mechanical control for this weed is easy if you have a backhoe. Digging the plant up with a shovel is very difficult due the extent of the hardy root system. Consecutive mowings may work if you can cut the plant very close to the ground. Burning of the plants is difficult as they do not produce much burnable material. For control on the on top and outside of the ditch bank use Milestone or Opensite, and in pastures products them and others such as Telar XF or Escort XP. Late fall can with Garlon or AquaSweep can be great, even in the dry ditch. Grasshoppers love this plant. This weed is quite invasive so do your part in controlling it by asking for help from your local professional weed control authority.

