WESTERN WASHINGTON WEED CONTROL GUIDE

CHEMICAL CONTROL OF TANSY RAGWORT

EM 3944
Revised November 1978

Tansy ragwort is a biennial weed, poisonous to livestock and infesting many thousands of acres in western Washington. Although it can invade irrigated pastures and perennial seed fields, it is more serious and extensive in cutover forest lands, marginal grazing areas, and noncroplands, such as roadsides, fence rows, building sites, railroads, and power line rights-of-way.

The use of the herbicide 2,4-D has proven to be an effective, inexpensive, and safe method for controlling tansy ragwort. However 2,4-D must be applied at certain growth stages of tansy ragwort to be effective: (1) to overwintered plants before the flower stalk elongates in the spring, and (2) to seedlings after rains have started in the fall. *These periods are the only times that 2,4-D by itself will control tansy ragwort.* The following table summarizes times and rates of application or 2,4-D as well as alternative treatments that have proven to be effective also.

Herbicide	Time of Application	Rate of Application	Remarks/Use Restrictions
2,4-D* amine or low-volatile ester (sold under several different trade names)	In southwest Washington, April 1 to May 15. In northwest Washington, April 15 to May 30. In western Washington, Oct. 1 to Nov. 15 (after fall rains have initiated tansy ragwort seed germination).	2 qts in 50 gal of water per acre. For spot treatment, 2 fl oz per gal of water. (These amounts assume the concentration of 2,4-D to be 4 lbs acid equivalent per gal)	Apply before flower stalks appear. Addition of spreader-sticker will enhance control—1 pt. per 50 gal or 1 tsp per gal of spray mix. Spray dry foliage. At spraying time, temperature should be between 55°F and 80°F and no rainfall should occur for four hours after application. Consult label for grazing restrictions. At this rate of application, forage legumes growing in pastures and hayfields will be injured and their stand reduced.
Paraquat CL	Mid-summer to early fall during blooming.	2 qts in 50 to 100 gal of water per acre. For spot treatment, 1 fl oz per gal of water.	*Kills almost all above ground green vegetation. Use only in noncrop areas;* Always add a nonionic surfactant—8 fl oz per 100 gal or 1/2 tsp per gal of spray mix. Results in top kill preventing further flower and seed formation; does not kill roots. Follow all label precautions. Can kill if swallowed. Harmful to the eyes and skin.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE • COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE • WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY • PULLMAN
In cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture
Issued in furtherance of the Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, by the Washington State University
Cooperative Extension Service, J. O. Young, Director

Herbicide	Time of Application	Rate of Application	Remarks/Use Restrictions
2,4-D* amine + Banvel or Weedmaster	In western Washington, April 1 to July 15 and Oct. 1 to Nov. 15 (after fall rains have initiated tansy ragwort seed germination).	1 1/2 qts of 2,4-D plus 1/2 qt of Banvel or 2 qts of Weedmaster. For spot treatment, 1 fl oz of Weedmaster per gal of water. (These amounts assume the concentration of 2,4-D and/or Banvel to be 4 lbs acid equivalent per gal.)	This mixture is more effective than 2,4-D alone after the flower stalk elongates and flowers are formed. Addition of a nonionic surfactant will enhance control—1 pt per 50 gal or 1/2 tsp per gal of spray mix. Spray dry foliage. At spraying time, temperatures should be between 55° F and 80° F and no rainfall should occur for four hours after application. Banvel will cause extensive injury to forage legumes; therefore do not apply to clover or alfalfa pastures. Consult label for grazing restrictions. Do not harvest treated forage for hay within 37 days of Banvel application. Do not apply Banvel to newly seeded areas. Do not use seed from treated grasses for feed or food purposes.

*Consult local regulations on the use of 2,4-D.

NOTE: Other herbicides, picloram (Tordon); 2,4,5-T; and 2,4-D + 2,4,5-T combinations (Brush Killer) are also effective in controlling tansy ragwort. However these materials are less suitable for use in the diversified cropping areas of western Washington. If these herbicides are used, consult the label and follow all restrictions and precautions that pertain to their application.

Prepared by D. V. Peabody, associate agronomist and Extension weed scientist, Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Unit, Mount Vernon; Washington State University, Pullman.