

BB. Common Tansy (“Garden Tansy”) (*Tanacetum vulgare*)

Key Characteristics:

Common Tansy is a member of the Sunflower family. Originally imported from Europe as an ornamental, it is a perennial plant that grows from 1½ to 6 feet tall with yellow **button-like composite flowers** and **fern-like leaves**. Reproducing by both seed and an **extensive root system**, tansy is difficult to control. Tansy is particularly aggressive when growing along irrigation ditches where it can restrict water flow.

Locations:

Common Tansy is found throughout Pitkin County, usually in small dense patches in sub-irrigated areas along roads, ditches, and in waste areas and pastures. Just down-valley of the county line, Common Tansy dominates the Hwy 82 and Rio Grande Trail rights-of-way, making up-valley transport of seed inevitable. This extremely aggressive weed is also often found as an ornamental in gardens throughout the valley. See below for native alternatives.

Biological control:

No known biological controls at this time.

Cultural control:

Do not plant Common Tansy. Competitive vegetative cover helps but does not completely prevent infestation.

Mechanical control:

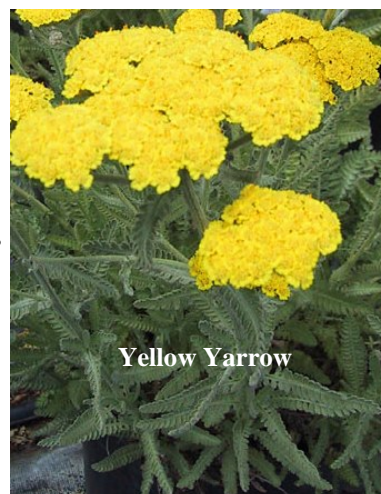
Repeated mowing or cutting will inhibit seed production, and may stress root system. Pulling and digging are usually ineffective, as these can actually stimulate roots to spread.

Chemical control:

Contact Pitkin County Land Management Department for more specific information about herbicide products, application rates, and equipment calibration.

Look-Alikes:

Common Tansy can easily be confused Yellow Yarrow, a common garden plant that looks very similar to the noxious weed, but can be distinguished by its grayish-green, wooly leaves, and flower clusters that are more umbrella-like than button-shaped.



Yellow Yarrow