

Have you seen this plant?



Flowers of tansy ragwort

Tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*)



Basal rosette

Tansy ragwort is an herbaceous plant that can grow 8in.-3ft. in height. The basal rosettes have deeply lobed, ragged leaves up to 9 in. long. Its alternate leaves are dark green on top and whitish-green on the underside, and may be smooth to lightly covered with long hairs, especially on the lower leaf surface and new growth. The leaf edges are deeply lobed with a ruffled appearance. The leaves can measure between 1.5-8in. long and 0.75-2.25in. wide. There are numerous yellow flower heads on tansy ragwort, which appear in July through October. Each flower head has about 12-15 rays. The fruit are light brown in color and measure 0.08in. long.

Tansy ragwort has been reported from Worcester county, MA and Hancock county, ME. There are past sightings in Essex county, MA and Cumberland county, ME. Tansy ragwort can be found in forested areas, along rivers, pastures, roadsides, vacant lots and other disturbed sites.

This highly invasive plant contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids, which are toxic to livestock and humans if ingested. A single tansy ragwort plant can produce up to 150,000 seeds, which are easily dispersed by wind, livestock and humans, and remain viable for 6 years. Tansy ragwort can also reproduce vegetatively, which increases its reproductive success.

If found, please report to:
Dr. Les Mehrhoff
ipane@uconn.edu
860-486-5708

