

Common Tansy, An Invasive Weed

The Situation

Common Tansy (*taneacetum vulgare*) is a perennial which was introduced as an ornamental and medicinal plant by early settlers to the area. It escaped to invade shelterbelts, wetlands and field boundaries. By the late 1990's scattered plants were being found across the northern third of Burke County and observant landowners noticed that the speed with which it spread was increasing. It was also starting to be found in no-till fields where it is difficult to control. In non-crop areas it crowds out native vegetation making the areas less desirable for wildlife.

Extension response

In 2005 the NDSU Extension Service/Burke County began working with the Burke County Weed Board to combat this problem. A US Forest Service grant was applied for and received through the North Dakota Department of Ag to map the infestation, control the weed along county and township roads and educate landowners. Herbicide control strip trials were conducted. Maps and photos were used in presentations to producers and the strip trials were included on summer tours. Producer education continues with personal contacts, news releases, newsletters and presentations at producer meetings.

Impacts

Common Tansy is now on the county noxious weed list and is being actively controlled in all county and township right-of-way. Herbicide strip trials have demonstrated excellent control of Common Tansy with 2 oz/acre of Metsulfuron.

Cost Share to individual producers for herbicide control is now offered through the Weed Board and the US Fish & Wildlife Service is controlling Common Tansy infestations on the Des Lac National Wildlife Refuge.

Producer education has resulted in reporting and control of small Common Tansy infestations outside of the main infestation area thereby stopping the continued spread of this weed.

Economic Impact

Nearly \$20,000.00 of federal and state grant money has been received by the Burke County Weed Board and leveraged with additional county funds to educate producers and to map and fight this weed. Herbicide costs in hay land, CRP and non-crop areas can exceed \$20/acre. There are no effective herbicides available for control of established Common Tansy infestations in no-till cropland. Therefore it is extremely important to prevent the spread into cropland.

Feedback

"Now that you've made me aware of the problem, I notice how bad it really is" - *Bowbells Grower, 2008*

"Your strip trials show the effectiveness of the Escort and the Weed Board cost share really helps"- *Lignite Grower, 2009*

"That Tansy is really spreading. We need to get it stopped before it becomes another Leafy Spurge problem" – *Weed Board Member, 2010*

Contact

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