



News Release

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Raising Tansy Ragwort Weed Awareness

There's a seedy villain lurking in the fire-ravaged lands outside the southern boundary of the Regional District of Central Okanagan. While the noxious weed is creeping toward our region, the effort is underway to raise awareness about it.

Tansy Ragwort is an invasive weed that is centered in the Chute Lake area. Its seeds are primarily spread by wind. With the loss of much of the forest canopy during last summer's forest fire, the Regional District is raising awareness of the noxious weed. Initially it has a rosette of leaves that are close to the ground. The stalk can grow to about 1.2 metres with ragged, deeply lobed leaves and bright, ray-like yellow flowers. Tansy Ragwort is a threat to livestock as it contains toxins that when consumed, can cause liver damage and sometimes death.

The Regional Noxious Weed Control program has sent information packages to 150 property owners in the Ellison/Joe Rich Electoral Area, between Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park and Highway 33. The letter and accompanying Tansy Ragwort fact sheet are designed to raise awareness about this weed. Bylaw Enforcement Officer Rhoda Mueller says, "We hope that landowners will learn to recognize Tansy Ragwort and through that, prevent it from getting its invasive roots into the Central Okanagan. It has the potential to spread easily, as one plant can produce more than 150,000 seeds. So early identification and prevention is critical if we're to try and prevent any infestation. Landowners are reminded that Provincial laws require them to control noxious weeds."

The Regional District of Central Okanagan is connected to the South Okanagan-Similkameen Weed Task Team looking at weed management in Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park after last year's forest fire.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Weeds BC website has excellent information on Tansy Ragwort and other noxious weeds. You can access it at www.weedsbc.ca or from the Noxious Weed Control page of the Regional District website (www.regionaldistrict.com). Anyone finding Tansy Ragwort is urged to contact the Regional District Bylaw Control Office at 868-5218.

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