

# Ragwort

## *Senecio jacobaea*

### Description

Biennial or perennial herb.

**Leaves:** Lobed and wrinkled.

**Flowers:** Bright yellow daisy like flowers. Flowers mostly in spring.

**Seeds:** Attached to a parachute of hairs.

### Origin

Native of Europe.

### Where is it found?

Grows almost anywhere where there is enough light, especially in pasture and waste places.

### How does it spread?

Ragwort spreads by windblown seed, on agricultural machinery. It's also carried in the hair of animals.

### Why is it a problem?

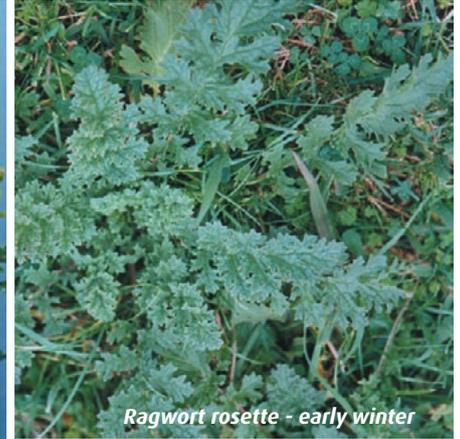
Ragwort is a major weed of pasture. It contains toxic substances and cows avoid it.

### Status as a pest plant in the Bay of Plenty

Ragwort is a Containment Pest Plant in the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Regional Pest Management Plan.

Rules require land occupiers to destroy any ragwort on their properties that is within 50 m of any property boundary.

It is an offence under the Biosecurity Act to propagate, sell, distribute, release or spread ragwort in the Bay of Plenty.



### How do I get rid of it?

#### Pasture management

Maintain a vigorous dense pasture, especially in summer when seed is in the air.

Graze with sheep at three stock units per hectare or mob stock four times a year.

#### Manual

Grubbing (digging) or hand pulling before flowering is effective as long as the entire crown is removed.

Mowing is not recommended as it encourages multiple crowned plants.

#### Spraying

**Spray seedlings and small rosettes** (usually early to mid-winter)

Boomspray with 2,4D at 2 - 4 L/ha.

**Spot spray larger plants** spring using Tordon Max.

With knapsack or CDAX unit use 60 ml per 10 L.

With handgun use 200 ml per 100 L.

Other spray options are also available.

### Note

Regular follow-up treatment will be necessary for some years until the seed bank in the soil is exhausted.

### Biological control

The ragwort flea beetle has now spread throughout the Bay of Plenty and is providing effective control.

The cinnabar moth caterpillar is also providing good control in some hill country areas near bush.

**CAUTION:** When using herbicide please READ THE LABEL thoroughly to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

**DISCLAIMER:** Information in this fact sheet regarding herbicides does not necessarily appear on the labels of the products concerned. Bay of Plenty Regional Council does not accept liability for any damage that may arise from the use of herbicides at non-standard rates. Mention of product trade names implies neither endorsement of those products nor criticism of similar products not mentioned.

**For more information contact a Bay of Plenty Regional Council Land Management Officer**

