MULTI-PRONGED STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIOLOGICAL CONTROL FOR COMMON TANSY, *TANACETUM VULGARE* L., Monika A. Chandler, Alec S. McClay and Urs Schaffner, Research Scientist, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, St. Paul, MN 55101 USA, McClay Ecoscience, Sherwood Park, Alberta T8H 1H8 Canada, and Head Ecosystems Research, CABI Switzerland Centre, 2800 Delémont, Switzerland

Common tansy, *Tanacetum vulgare*, is an invasive plant of natural areas, pastures, forest and field margins, and rights of way. Brought to North America from Europe as a medicinal and ornamental plant, tansy escaped cultivation and is spreading throughout the northern United States and Canada. Tansy infestations are associated with loss of desirable vegetation, toxicity to humans and livestock, reduction in pasture carrying capacity, degradation of wildlife habitat, and hindering reforestation and restoration efforts. Herbicide control is costly and may not be an option for environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands. A program for the development of biological control for common tansy was launched in 2006 by a joint United States and Canadian consortium. The program includes foreign exploration to identify candidate biological control insects and to study their host-specificity and their impact on the target weed. In addition, efforts continue to assess the current distribution of common tansy and to quantify its economic and ecological impacts in the invaded range.

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