

Common ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*)



Rosette



Ragwort is one of five injurious weeds specified in the Weeds Act 1959. If eaten, ragwort causes long-term cumulative liver damage in livestock and other animals, and can have potentially fatal consequences. The Weeds Act 1959 empowers the Secretary of State to take action to prevent the spread of Common Ragwort and the other injurious weeds covered by the Act. The Ragwort Control Act came into force on 20 February 2004 and amends the Weeds Act, enabling the Secretary of State to make a Code of Practice on how to prevent the spread of Common Ragwort.

The Weeds Act does not make it an offence to permit injurious weeds to grow on land. However, the Secretary of State has permissive powers to serve a notice on an occupier of any land on which injurious weeds are growing requiring action to be taken to prevent weeds spreading.

Life Cycle

Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) flowers from late June onwards to early autumn when the characteristic yellow inflorescences usually extend between 30-100 cms in height. Ragwort occurs in neglected grass fields, on uncropped ground and sand dunes. It prefers light soils of low fertility, particularly in over or under-grazed pasture. Common ragwort is biennial when undisturbed but can develop perennial characteristics following cutting or treading.

Ragwort control

Prevention is the best form of control. Good grass land management which keeps the grass sward tight will minimise the chance of ragwort establishing.

If land is affected by ragwort there are a number of control options available, the most suitable method of control will depend on circumstances including time or cost limiting factors. To be successful all control methods should be accompanied by improved grassland management techniques.

Control options include digging or pulling up plants, cutting and stem removal, treatment with selective herbicides. There is now an environmentally friendly product containing citronella oil available for spot treatment of ragwort. Treatments should be carried out at the right time by trained operators with the appropriate protective clothing.

For further information contact:-

PBA Consulting: - A Synopsis

By understanding and meeting client needs, PBA Consulting provides a professional and comprehensive service. The latest technologies enable us to provide a cost effective facility as expected by our clients.

Our complete landscape and vegetation management consultancy covers: -

- Landscape design, project management and specifications.
- Facilities inspections and surveys including highways.
- Arboricultural surveys, tree inspections; BS5837 and TPO assessments; Section 154 Notices (Highways Act).
- Specialist investigations and condition reports including soil contaminates.
- Turfculture and sports ground agronomy and management including staff appraisals and appointments.
- Habitat and vegetation surveys including Japanese Knotweed, Ragwort identification and control.
- Habitat surveys including pest and disease identification
- Contract preparation, administration and vetting of contractors; drawing preparation, specifications, schedule of rates.
- Liaison with local planning authorities.
- Hard and soft landscape features mapping; area checks and boundaries



GIS/GPS Equipment



Following current best practice, PBA Consulting provides a complete range of expertise giving reassurance as to the condition and safety of tree and landscape facilities.

Car mounted GIS/GPS video surveys