

What?



- Ragworts are poisonous weeds, of which Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) is the most common.
- It is a tall erect plant, growing up to 3ft and bearing large flat-topped clusters of yellow daisy-like flowers from July to October. It has finely divided leaves with a basal rosette of deeply-cut, toothed leaves.
- The yellow flower heads of common ragwort are actually highly attractive to bees and other insects, including the cinnabar moth.

Why?

- Ragwort may occur in paddocks, railway embankments and areas of unimproved pasture. Cattle and horses are particularly susceptible to poisoning if they eat it, either directly or from eating contaminated hay.
- Common ragwort produces large numbers of seeds which are dispersed by the wind.
- Ragwort is covered by the Weeds Act 1959 (which specifies five injurious weeds including common ragwort) and the Ragwort Control Act 2003.
- Cutting and pulling at the early flowering stage can be an effective means of non-chemical control.



Do ✓

- ✓ Take care of your back when pulling ragwort from the ground. It will come out more easily when the ground is wet
- ✓ Apply sun cream, especially to the back of your knees if you are wearing shorts
- ✓ Wear gloves, because the toxins in ragwort can effect humans through the skin
- ✓ Wash your hands when you have finished and before eating, drinking and smoking

Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't leave the pulled ragwort in the field where it can be eaten or set seed
- ✗ Don't allow the liquid from decomposing ragwort to drain directly to any watercourse
- ✗ Don't transport ragwort unless it has been bagged



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