

# Common Groundsel Management in Strawberry Production

## *Understanding the Weed*

Common groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris* L.) is a branched winter or summer annual. It reproduces by seed from early spring through late fall. It can go through 3-4 generations in one year. Seed can disperse some distance by wind.

Research conducted by Doug Doohan at Ohio State University suggests that seed produced from spring through late summer germinates that growing season. Fall germinating groundsel produces seed that is dormant and can stay dormant until the next spring or for up to three years depending on micro-climatic conditions.

## *Important Management Concepts*

Site preparation is critical for the management of all weed species

- When bringing in a new field (fall round-up, summer fallow/cover crop, fall round-up, spring strawberry)
- Strawberry fields must be rotated with other crops and must be managed to reduce broadleaf weeds (ie. grains or a green cover)

Prevent seed production – “1 year seeding, 7 years weeding”

- Hand weed small patches of weeds before they become a problem (remove plants from the field)
- Focus on managing groundsel in the fall and prevent the dormant seed production

Manage land around fields (ie. headlands and field borders)

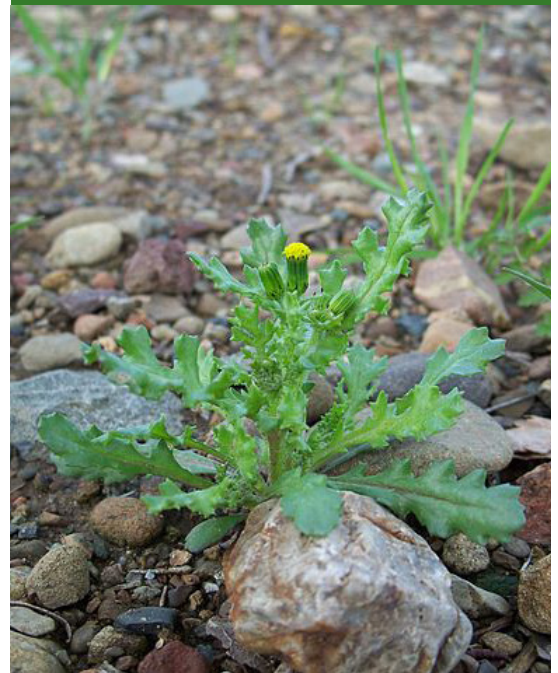
- Keep headlands and field borders mowed to prevent seed production

Herbicides alone will not control common groundsel, but some of these chemical tools will help:

- **Lontrel™ 360 Herbicide** or **Lontrel 72 Herbicide** at renovation will control groundsel that has emerged at that time.
- **Devrinol® 50-DF**, **Devrinol® DF-XT** or **Devrinol® 2-XT** applied in the fall prior to mulching has shown some success in some fields. The success of this treatment can be very dependent on weather,



“Fall germinating groundsel produces seed that can stay dormant for up to three years.”



- soil conditions and previous spray history.
- **Goal™ 2XL** applied pre-mulch in late fall, does appear to delay groundsel development in the spring.

*(There may be other products registered please consult the guides listed below or a horticulturist.)*

Understand the herbicide you are applying – what weeds it will control, what conditions it works best in, the proper rate to apply it at, and the proper time to apply it.

To source detailed information on pesticides and pesticide application, refer to the following guides:

**Strawberry Insect and Disease Management Guide**  
**Guide to Weed Management in Strawberry**

*(both found on the following page)*

<http://www.perennia.ca/fruit.php>

**Strawberry IPM - Weed Management Guide**  
**(NBDAFA)**

<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/10/pdf/Agriculture/SmallFruits-Petitsfruits/StrawberryIPM.pdf>

*This publication was compiled by representatives from Perennia using information from the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada, specific pesticide labels and manufacturer's information. This information is continuously changing and therefore it can cease to be current and accurate. Pesticide labels are the best source of information and should always be consulted prior to using a product.*

*By printing this publication, Perennia does not offer any warranty or guarantee, nor do they assume any liability for any crop loss, animal loss, health, safety or environmental hazard caused by the use of a pesticide mentioned in this publication.*

*Where there are multiple brand names of a specific active ingredient registered in Canada, Perennia has only listed a couple for reference purposes and as such does not endorse one brand over another. If you have purchased a generic product not specifically in this guide but has your crop and pest on the label, always follow that product label. If any information in this or any other publication conflicts with the information on the label, always use the label recommendation.*



*Photo Credit* (in order of appearance):

**Common Groundsel Seedling** by user:Rasbak - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=842385>

**Common Groundsel** by EugeneZelenko assumed (based on copyright claims). - Own work assumed (based on copyright claims)., GFDL, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1670917>

**Common Groundsel** by Stefan.lefnaer - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=32094434>

*For more information, contact:*

Jennifer Haverstock, Horticulturist  
 Tel: 902-678-7722  
 Email: [jhaverstock@perennia.ca](mailto:jhaverstock@perennia.ca)

Peter Burgess, Integrated Pest Management Coordinator  
 Tel: 902-896-0277  
 Email: [pburgess@perennia.ca](mailto:pburgess@perennia.ca)

*Updated April 2016*