

# RAGWORT

*Jacobaea vulgaris*  
Asteraceae



Cinnabar caterpillar

Five agents have been released to attack ragwort: cinnabar moth (*Tyria jacobaeae*), ragwort crown-boring moth (*Cochylis atricapitana*), ragwort flea beetle (*Longitarsus jacobaeae*), ragwort plume moth (*Platyptilia isodactyla*), and ragwort seedfly (*Botanophila jacobaeae*). The ragwort seedfly is limited in its distribution and ineffective at limiting seed production. The cinnabar moth can contribute to ragwort control but tends to be patchy in its distribution and does not achieve damaging populations every year. Ragwort flea beetle is a highly effective agent which has successfully controlled ragwort throughout much of New Zealand, but not in high rainfall areas. The ragwort plume moth is establishing well and reducing ragwort in areas where the flea beetle is not able to be effective. The crown-boring moth is not thought to have established.