

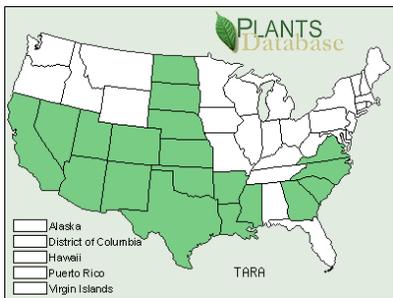


# Saltcedar *Tamarix ramosissima* Ledeb.

**Common Names:** saltcedar, tamarix

**Native Origin:** Eurasia and Africa

**Description:** A deciduous shrub or small tree in the Tamarisk family (*Tamaricaceae*) growing to 5-30 feet in height and forming dense thickets. Stems are slender, light red, or orange-yellow and weeping when young. Older bark is grey. Leaves are compound, alternate, scale-like and tightly overlapping along the stem. Flowers are pale pink to white dense plumes that bloom from early spring to late fall. Fruit capsules contain numerous tiny (1/25 -inch diameter) seeds. Reproduction is by root expansion, resprouts and by seeds that are dispersed through the air and by water.



**Habitat:** Saltcedar is located in disturbed and undisturbed streams, waterways, bottomlands, banks and drainage washes of natural or artificial water bodies, moist rangelands and pastures, and other areas where seedlings can be exposed to extend periods of saturated soil for establishment. It can grow on highly saline soils containing up to 15,000 ppm soluble salt and can tolerate alkali conditions.

**Distribution:** This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in AZ, CA, CO, LA, MT, NC, ND, NM, NV, OK, TX, UT, and WY.

**Ecological Impacts:** Saltcedars are fire-adapted species and have long tap roots that allow them to intercept deep water tables and interfere with natural aquatic systems.

### Control and Management:

- **Manual-** hand-pulling, digging, root-cutting, use of weed eaters, axes, machetes, bulldozers, fire and flooding. Removal by hand is generally recommended for small infestations of saplings under 1-inch diameter. Root-cutting and bulldozing may be effective but are costly, labor intensive and may cause extensive damage to soils and lead to resprouting. Fire has been used with some success, but because saltcedars are fire-adapted, they readily resprout after fire. Flooding can be used to control salt cedar if root crowns remain submerged for at least three months.
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or triclopyr. Because tamarisk usually grows in or adjacent to streams, wetlands and other waterways, it is important to use products registered for aquatic application. Follow label and state requirements.



- **Biological control agents** for saltcedar include fifteen insects. Two of these, a mealybug (*Trabutina manipara*) and a leaf beetle (*Diorhabda elongata*), have preliminary approval for release. Five others are being tested within the United States and an additional eight species are under study overseas. Final approval for release of the mealybug and the leaf beetle is pending.

salt cedar leaf beetle  
*Diorhabda elongata* Brulle

**References:** www.forestimages.org, http://plants.usda.gov, www.nps.gov/plants/alien, Czarapata, Elizabeth J. Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest, An Illustrated Guide to their Identification and Control, 2005 p. 125-126, Invasive Plants Established in the United States that are Found in Asia and their Associated Natural Enemies USDA FS, FHTET 2005-15 p. 134-136