

Saltcedar

Tamarix ramosissima

Description

It is extensively established in the southwestern United States and Mexico. Believed to have been introduced on the East Coast in 1823 as an ornamental.

Habit

Deciduous, long lived (50-100 years) shrub or small tree growing 5-30 feet in height and forming dense thickets.

Leaves

Compound, alternate, scale-like and tightly overlapping along the stem.

Stems

Slender, light red, or orange-yellow and weeping when young. Older bark is grey.

Flowers

Pale pink to white dense plumes that bloom from early spring to late fall.

Fruits and Seeds





Fruit capsules contain numerous tiny (1/25 inch diameter) seeds.

Habitat

Native to Eurasian and Africa. Found in disturbed and undisturbed streams, waterways, bottomlands, banks and drainage washes of natural or artificial water bodies, moist rangelands and pastures. Capable of growing in soils containing up to 15,000 ppm soluble salt.

Reproduction

By root expansion, resprouts and by seeds that are dispersed through the air and by water.

Similar

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand pulling, digging, root-cutting, and the use of hand tools is recommended for small infestations. Fire has been used, but saltcedars are fire-adapted and readily resprout. Can be effectively controlled using any several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or triclopyr.

Credits

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