

SALTCEDAR

Tamarix ramosissima, *T. chinensis* and hybrids



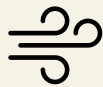
Identification/Origin

Saltcedar is native to the Middle East and Eurasia and is also known as tamarisk. It was introduced to North America in the 1800s to provide windbreaks and prevent soil erosion and became widespread throughout the American West following its introduction. It is classified as either a large shrub or a small tree. It has numerous slender branches covered with small scale-like leaves. Even though leaves resemble cedar leaves, this plant is deciduous. Saltcedar can grow 30 feet tall and has smooth, reddish-brown bark which becomes furrowed and ridged with age. Saltcedar produces thousands of small, five-petaled white to pink flowers throughout the spring and summer. In addition to reproduction by seed, saltcedar can reproduce vegetatively due to a primary root with extensive secondary root branching. Individual trees generally send up numerous vegetative shoots, creating large clones.

Level of Infestation in Montana

Herbarium specimens document its presence in Big Horn County, Montana in 1971 however, other reports indicate it may have been in Montana from the 1960s in Treasure and Rosebud Counties. It can be found throughout Montana, particularly in river bottoms and riparian areas.

Pathways



Passive spread
(wind/water)



Nursery



Spread by wildlife



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