

Saltcedar

TAMARICACEAE - Tamarix Family

Tamarix ramosissima Ledeb.



Common Name: Saltcedar (tamarix, tamarisk)

Growth Form: Shrub or small tree

Life Span: Perennial

Origin: Eurasia

Flowering Dates: April-September

Reproduction: Seeds, root sprouts, buried stems

Height: 1-6 m (3.3-20 ft)

Inflorescence: Raceme (1.5-7.5 cm long, 2.5-4 mm wide), numerous in panicles, flowers many; bracts triangular to narrowly trullate (longer than the pedicels), tips pointed, margins denticulate

Flower: White to deep pink corolla, petals 5; petals obovate to broadly elliptic (1-1.8 mm long); sepals 5, green, toothed

Fruit: Capsules, lance-ovoid (3-4 mm long), narrowed into a beak, tuft of soft bristles at the tip, purplish-red to yellowish-green; seeds many

Seed: Minute, tuft of hairs at the tip

Leaves: Alternate, imbricate; blades lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate (1-4 mm long), tips pointed, margins membranaceous, bluish-green to grayish-green

Twigs: Upright or spreading, forming thickets; bark smooth and glabrous becoming ridged and furrowed with age

Underground: Taproot, deep, extensive

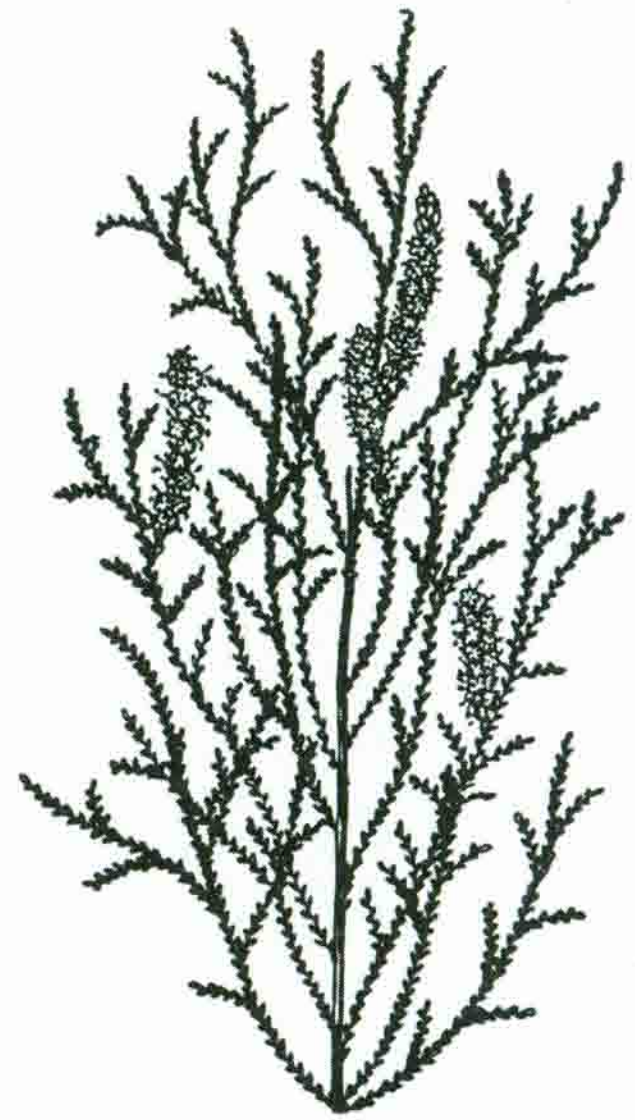
Where Found: Western Great Plains in salt marshes, flood plains, lake shores, and along rivers and streams. Saltcedar tolerates alkaline and saline conditions. (NE, SD, ND, KS, OK, TX, MT, WY, CO, NM, & SK)

Uses and Values: Saltcedar has little forage value for livestock or wildlife. It provides nectar and pollen for bees and nesting cover for morning doves. It is sometimes planted as an ornamental and for erosion control.

Poisoning: None

Historical: Saltcedar was introduced into the United States in the 1820s.

Other: It uses a large amount of water, and dense stands may cause springs and small streams to dry up. Seeds of saltcedar are spread by water and wind.



Panicles have many, small, pink flowers.

Leaves are small, intricate, and the tips are pointed.

