

# SALT CEDAR

*Tamarix spp.*

Tamaricaceae, the tamarisk family

Category: Containment

## FACTSHEET INFORMATION

### Summary of Invasiveness

- Saltcedar is a small tree or shrub that forms dense thickets that eliminates backwaters, increases sedimentation, alters water temperature/turbidity, causes bank aggradation, and increases wildfire frequency.
- It extracts salt from deep in the soil, exuding it through special leaf glands to form a layer of saline litter on the soil surface that inhibits the growth of desired native species.
- The plant alters channel depth/width, decreasing streamflow and ground water, resulting in water shortages for agricultural irrigation and municipal use.

### Description

- Shrub or small tree that grows up to 24 feet tall.
- Smooth, woody stems are dark to reddish-brown.
- Small, scalelike leaves are gray-green and overlap along the stem, resembling juniper leaves.
- Seeds are capsules with long tufts of hair.
- 5-petaled flowers are pale to dark pink and borne in finger-like clusters.

### Introduction and Movement

- Saltcedar is native to Eurasia and was introduced to the U.S. as a landscape ornamental used for wind breaks and bank stabilization.
- Inhabits streambanks, river bottoms, lake shores, wetlands, canals, and reservoirs.
- It can easily spread by careless garden material disposal, as well as by seed and fragment dispersal via wind and water.

### Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Saltcedar and eradicate infestations on your property.
- When landscaping, always research plants before planting and purchase seeds from licensed nurseries.
- Always remove and properly dispose of all seed and plant materials on vehicles, clothing, shoes and pets before you exit or enter outdoor recreational sites.
- Always Remember To: **KNOW WHAT YOU GROW & KNOCK IT OFF!**

#### Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/52503>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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# SALT CEDAR DISTRIBUTION MAP

