

Saltcedar

Adams County
Weed Department
9755 Henderson Rd
Brighton, CO
80601
303-637-8115



Key ID Points

1. Saltcedar is a tall shrub or small tree that has large sprays of small, whitish or pinkish flowers that are born in finger-like clusters.
2. Leaves are small and scaly.

Saltcedar Identification and Management



Identification and Impacts

Saltcedar, aka tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*), is a non-native deciduous or evergreen shrub or small tree that grows from 5 to 20 feet tall. The bark on saplings and stems is reddish-brown. The leaves are small and scale-like and the flowers are pink to white and 5-petaled. Saltcedar reproduces by seeds as well as vegetatively. A mature plant can produce up to 600,000 seeds per year. Seeds are viable for up to 45 days under ideal conditions. Saltcedar buds break dormancy in February or March. Flowering occurs anytime between April and August. Ideal conditions for saltcedar seedling survival are saturated soil during the first few weeks of life, a high water table, and open sunny ground with little competition from other plants.

Saltcedar was introduced from central Asia, northern Africa, and southern Europe for ornamental purposes and for stream bank stabilization. It is now widespread in the United States. Saltcedar crowds out native stands of riparian and wetland vegetation. Saltcedar increases salinity of surface soil, rendering the soil inhospitable to native plant species. Saltcedar can be found along floodplains, riverbanks, streambanks, marshes, and irrigation ditches. It's heavy use of water has intensified the drought.

The most effective method of control for saltcedar is to prevent its establishment through proper land management. Monitor susceptible areas for new infestations.

Saltcedar is designated as a list "B" species on the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be either eradicated, contained, or suppressed depending on the local infestations. For more information visit www.ag.state.co.us.

On the backside of this sheet are saltcedar management recommendations. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the Adams County Weed Department at 303-637-8115. Please visit our website www.adamscountyextension.org.



Tamarix ramosissima

**CULTURAL**

After a saltcedar infestation is managed, revegetation is necessary in order to protect the soil resource and reduce the threat of reinvasion.

Seeded grasses, willow stakes, and cottonwood cuttings can reduce the chances of saltcedar reinvading managed sites.

**BIOLOGICAL**

The saltcedar leaf beetle (*Diorhabda elongata*) larvae and adults feed on foliage. This causes stem dieback and potential death of the plant if defoliation is consistent. The leaf beetle should be available for distribution by 2007.

For more information, contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture, 970-464-7916

**MECHANICAL**

A bulldozer or prescribed fire can be used to open up large stands of saltcedar. These methods must be followed up with a herbicide treatment of the resprouts when they are 1 to 2 meters tall.

Chainsaws, or loppers for smaller plants, are effective for cut-stump treatments to smaller infestations or in environmentally-sensitive management areas.

Integrated Weed Management:

Select the appropriate control method based on the size of the area and other environmental or cultural considerations.

Re-seed controlled areas with desirable species to protect the soil resource and to prevent or slow saltcedar reinvasion.

Follow up control efforts the same growing season and for several years afterwards.

Saltcedar

HERBICIDES

The following are recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to range and pasturelands. Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!

Rates are approximate and based on equipment with an output of 30 gallons per acre. Please read label for exact rates.

HERBICIDE	RATE	APPLICATION TIMING
Garlon 4	foliar - 2-4qts./acre	Foliar treatments - late spring to early fall
	cut-stump - undiluted 100%	Cut-stump - anytime except when snow or water prevent spraying of the ground line
	basal bark treatment - 1:3 herbicide:natural oil	Basal bark - anytime except when snow is present
Rodeo - aquatic label *nonselective, will kill all vegetation it contacts*	cut-stump - undiluted 100%	Treat anytime except when snow is present. Treat the cambium immediately after being cut. Thoroughly wet the surface, but not to the point of runoff.
Arsenal or Habitat *Habitat is approved for use in aquatic sites*	cut-stump - 8-12oz/gal water Foliar - 0.5-6.5oz/gal water + nonionic surfactant or methylated seed oil	Cut-stump - anytime except spring during heavy sap flows Foliar - late spring to late summer. Spray entire crown and 70% of plant. Avoid spray solution runoff.