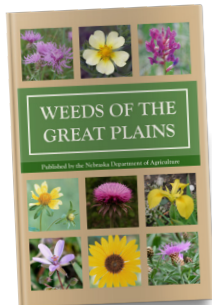


NOXIOUS WEEDS ARE EVERYONE'S CONCERN

Noxious weeds compete with pastures and crops, reducing yields substantially. Some noxious weeds are directly poisonous or injurious to man, livestock and wildlife. The losses resulting from noxious weed infestations can be staggering, costing residents of Nebraska millions of dollars due to production losses. This not only directly affects the landowner, but erodes the tax base for all residents in the State of Nebraska.

The business of noxious weed control is everyone's concern, and noxious weed control benefits everyone. The support of all individuals within the state is needed and vital for the control of noxious weeds within Nebraska. It is the duty of each person who owns land to effectively control noxious weeds on their land.

If you have questions or concerns about noxious weeds, please contact your local county noxious weed control authority or the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.



Material derived from *Weeds of the Great Plains*, published by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

For more information, visit nda.nebraska.gov.

SALT CEDAR (TAMARIX)



NEBRASKA NOXIOUS WEED

PREPARED BY THE
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND THE
NEBRASKA WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION

SALT CEDAR FACTS

Common Name: Saltcedar (tamarix, tamarisk)

Growth Form: Shrub or small tree

Life Span: Perennial

Origin: Asia

Flowering Dates: May–September

Reproduction: Seeds, root sprouts, buried stems

Height: 1–6 m (3.3–19.7 ft)

Inflorescences: Racemes (1.5–7.5 cm long, 2.5–4 mm wide), spikelike, numerous, clustered in panicles, usually in groups at the ends of branches, flowers many, each subtended by a bract; bracts triangular to narrowly trowel-shaped (longer than the pedicels), tips pointed, margins denticulate

Flowers: White to deep pink corollas, petals 5; petals obovate to broadly elliptic (1–1.8 mm long, 2–3 mm wide); sepals 5, green, entire

Fruits: Capsules, lance-ovoid (3–4 mm long), longer than the persistent corollas, narrowed into a beak, appear softly-hairy because of tufts of soft bristles at the tips, purplish-red to yellowish-green; seeds many

Seeds: Minute, tuft of hairs at the tips

Leaves: Alternate, simple; blades imbricate; lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate (1–4 mm long), scalelike, tips pointed, margins membranous; grayish-green to bluish-green; turning yellow in autumn

Twigs: Upright or spreading, forming thickets; bark smooth, 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 soils. (NE, SD, ND, KS, OK, TX, IA, MO, MT, WY, CO, NM; Canada: Manitoba)

Uses and Values: Saltcedar has little forage value for livestock or wildlife. It provides nectar and pollen for bees and nesting cover for mourning 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.

IMPACT OF SALT CEDAR

Saltcedar currently infests 1,500 acres in Nebraska. Most infestations occur along stream and riverbanks, and lake shores throughout the state. Saltcedar has been documented on the Platte, Missouri and Republican Rivers. It is also found on several reservoirs in the state.

Saltcedar consumes large quantities of water which is believed to be responsible for drying up streams, rivers and lakes in the southwest United States. It directly competes with native vegetation that is essential for wildlife habitat. Saltcedar also invades shore areas making them unsuitable for recreational activities. We can all do our part by controlling saltcedar infestations or by reporting uncontrolled infestations to your local county weed control authority.



Panicles of racemes contain many small white to deep pink flowers.

CONTROLLING SALT CEDAR

Mechanical and Cultural Control

Small infestations of newly emerged plants can be dug by hand taking care to remove as much of the root mass as possible. Removed plants should be placed in a dry area that is not subject to flooding or water runoff. Dried plants can be burned. It is necessary to monitor the control area for re-growth from roots to seeds. Mowing of saltcedar plants is not recommended. This activity creates many small plant parts that can re-vegetate. Large plants can be cut down and moved to a dry site for drying. However, the stumps need to be surfaced treated with an approved herbicide.

Saltcedar will primarily be located on stream and riverbanks or lake shores. It is usually not found in dry areas but has been documented on a few isolated dry sites. Plants found on dry sites still produce many seeds that may find favorable conditions for germination.

Mechanical and cultural control has limited success and should be incorporated with other control options.

Biological Control

The use of natural enemies (biocontrol agents) for the control of saltcedar is currently being studied in Nebraska. These agents work slowly, and favorable results may not be seen for many years. Biocontrol agents should be only considered as a tool to assist in control and should never be relied upon to completely control any noxious weed. The method of control shall be as effective as the use of herbicides, and shall be approved by your local county weed control authority.

Saltcedar Control Summary

A combination of two or more control methods is the best approach to take when controlling saltcedar. By utilizing two or more control options, your odds become greater that more of the targeted plant will be controlled. Saltcedar is capable of producing millions of seeds throughout the growing season. Continued monitoring and follow-up control measures are essential to effectively control saltcedar.

Herbicide Control

The use of herbicides can be an effective tool to assist in controlling noxious weeds. A person needs to identify the problem and the appropriate herbicide for the plant as well as the site that the plant is growing. If the noxious weed infestation is severe and scattered across a large area, then a broadcast application may be warranted. However, if the noxious weeds are in patches or a few scattered plants here and there a person may be able to spot treat individual plants or patches. his approach requires less herbicide and has minimal impact on native plants and the environment. Controlling noxious weeds with herbicides in only one tool and should never be the only control option.



Additional information regarding herbicide use can be found through the Nebraska Cooperative Extension EC130 (*Guide for Weed, Disease, and Insect Management in Nebraska*) or your local county weed control authority at neweed.org.