

# SALT CEDAR

**BOTANICAL NAME:**

*Tamarix chinensis*

## WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Saltcedar is a spreading shrub that can reach 8 to 16 feet tall. It has tiny scale-like leaves reminiscent of a Cedar tree. The small 1/16" flowers are white to pink and grow in a slender cluster.



**WHERE DOES IT GROW?** It loves stream banks, irrigation ditches, and other wet or seasonally wet areas.

**WHY IS IT A NOXIOUS WEED?** It can drastically change the ecology of riparian systems by removing water. Saltcedar's taproot can be 30 feet deep in addition to its lateral creeping roots that branch profusely once they hit water. It has the one of the highest evapotranspiration rates of any riparian shrubs and can remove 13 acre feet of water per year! During this process it secretes salt from its leaves and roots, preventing the survival of other plants.

**HOW DOES IT SPREAD?** Saltcedar takes advantage of flood conditions. The seeds float on the surface of the water and are dispersed great distances. Once the water recedes, the seeds germinate in the wet soil. It then competes by destroying the habitat for other plants and expands vegetatively via reproductive roots.

**HOW DO I CONTROL IT?** Mechanical control methods such as digging or pulling can be effective on individual plants if care is taken to remove the entire root crown and laterally spreading roots. This may need to be repeated as any root fragments left in the soil can regrow. Saltcedar is primarily controlled chemically. See the reverse side for more information on control options and also see our Chemical Treatment handout for more information on using herbicides.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL:

**Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control**  
10905 N. Ramsey Road, Hayden, ID 83835  
208-446-1290

[kcnnoxiousweeds@kcgov.us](mailto:kcnnoxiousweeds@kcgov.us) or [www.kcweeds.com](http://www.kcweeds.com)

*Kootenai County does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in, its public meetings, programs, or activities. Requests for assistance or accommodations can be arranged by contacting the Noxious Weed Control Department at (208) 446-1290 or County Administration Office TTY (208)446-2145 with 3 days advance notice. Developed by L. Ely 110106*



# How to Control Saltcedar

Saltcedar is a perennial that reproduces not only by seed, but also vegetatively through fragments of roots or stems. Control efforts must kill the root system and not spread fragments of the plant.

**Mechanical** Mechanical methods such as mowing, burning, chopping, disking and chaining will typically only suppress Saltcedar and not eradicate it. It can also resprout from its root crown following mechanical control. When it is very young and small it can be hand pulled.

**Cultural** The best long term weed control is to get your desirable native plants thriving. Killing weeds is only one step, you have to also replace them with something good. Seed and fertilize so your grass can take nutrients away from the weeds and not leave available open soil for new weeds to germinate.

**Biological** Several species of leaf feeding beetle have been introduced and are very successful at suppressing Saltcedar. For more information contact Nez Perce Biocontrol Center at [www.nezpercebiocontrol.com](http://www.nezpercebiocontrol.com) or (208)843-9374.

**Chemical** \* See our *Chemical Treatment* handout for more information on using herbicides.

- **Triclopyr** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Garlon 3a**, **Element 3a**, and many “Poison Ivy and Tough Brush Killer” type products. It can be very effective on Saltcedar in a basal bark or cut stump treatment during summer or fall.
- **Imazapyr** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Habitat** and **Polaris**. It is non-selective and can be effective in a foliar application to Saltcedar during late summer or early fall.
- **Glyphosate** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **RoundUp**, **Gly-Star**, **Honcho**, etc. It is non-selective and can be effective in a foliar application to Saltcedar in late summer or early fall.

Chemical recommendations are based on University of Idaho Extension Bulletin 865 [Idaho's Noxious Weeds 2011 Control Guidelines Noncrop and Rangeland Sites](#), the book [Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States](#) published by UC Davis Weed Research & Information Center, and herbicide labels.