

Know Your Nebraska Noxious Weeds

SALTCEDAR *Tamarix chinensis* Lour.

Over generations both the rate of introduction and spread of noxious weeds have increased significantly. This change is mainly due to an increase in human travel, expanding commerce through trade, and a lack of knowledge of how weeds are spread. By becoming educated about noxious weeds, you're doing your part to help stop their spread and protect the environment.

What is the threat?

If noxious weeds are left uncontrolled, the Nebraska that we enjoy today will look much different for future generations. Do your part, become educated and help stop the spread of noxious weeds.

How did saltcedar get here?

[Saltcedar](#) is native to Asia. It is thought to have been brought from southeastern Europe and eastern Asia into the United States in the mid-1800s. Saltcedar was declared a noxious weed in Nebraska in 2005.

What does saltcedar look like?

Saltcedar is a shrub or small tree with distinctive small pinkish to white flowers which appear from late June through August. It can reach 25 feet in height with numerous, reddish-brown branches. Saltcedar has alternate pale green leaves that turn yellow in the fall and drop to the soil surface during the winter.

What is the impact of doing nothing?

Saltcedar has little forage value for livestock or wildlife. It can increase the salinity of the soil which reduces the productivity of native plants and results in the loss of natural habitat. Saltcedar can utilize soil water to such an extent that it may dry up streams and reduce water levels of rivers and lakes.

Is saltcedar good for anything?

Saltcedar provides nectar and pollen for bees and nesting cover for mourning doves.

How does saltcedar spread?

Saltcedar reproduces by seed and by spreading root sprouts or stem fragments. Saltcedar is a perennial plant that is dispersed by wind and water. Once seeds take up water, they can germinate in one day.

How can I control saltcedar?

Controlling small infestations is more effective and less expensive.

Options for [saltcedar](#) control include:

Mechanical - Very difficult due to its ability to resprout from roots. Seedlings may be hand pulled.

Herbicide - Several herbicides are effective in managing saltcedar. Treatments should be late season.

Biological - Several leaf beetles have been approved for release in the United States. Though this control method is slow, it is inexpensive, largely self-sustaining and targets only saltcedar species, leaving other plants unharmed. Biological agents are considered a tool and should not be relied on to eradicate an infestation.



What is a Noxious Weed?

A noxious weed is a nonnative plant, which is known to be invasive and can be directly poisonous to man, livestock, and wildlife. Noxious weeds compete with crops, rangeland and pastures reducing yields substantially.

It is the duty of each person who owns or controls land in Nebraska to effectively control noxious weeds on his/her property. For more information about Nebraska's Noxious Weeds contact your local [Weed Control Superintendent](#)