



## Invasive Plant Species: *Saltcedar*

Originating in Asia, Saltcedar, or *Tamarix*, is an invasive weed species that has become a prevalent problem throughout the Southwestern United States. It disrupts the structure and stability of North American native plant communities and degrades native wildlife habitat by outcompeting and replacing native plant species, salinizing soils, monopolizing limited sources of moisture, and increasing the frequency, intensity and effect of fires and floods.



Saltcedar, like many other invasive plant species, has a great reproductive capability. Seeds are easily dispersed by wind and water, and severed stems and shoots of saltcedar readily root in moist soil.

Saltcedar also deposits salt above and below the ground, forming a saline crust inhibiting other plants from growing in its vicinity. In addition to outcompeting native species, this also enables the saltcedar to cope with high concentrations of dissolved solids. The plant's ability to exploit suitable germinating conditions over a long time period gives saltcedar a considerable advantage over native riparian species, which is why it is considered a noxious weed in states throughout the country.

