

LAKE COUNTY WEED MANAGEMENT AREA WEED CONTROL PROGRAM ALERT

Salt Cedar

Tamarix spp.

Tamanicaceae Family

Non-native Invasive Weed*

Identification Tips

- Deciduous shrub to small tree
- Reaches heights of 10 to 30+ feet
- Slender, long gray-green branches are spreading or upright, often forming dense thickets
- Pink feathery flowers in the spring

Biology

- Active growth occurs from early or mid-spring to fall, when leaves drop
- Reproduces primarily by seed; when mature seeds are dispersed by wind to new locations

Impacts

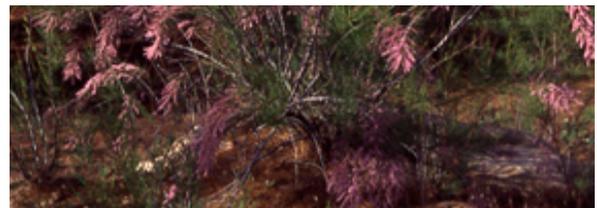
- Displaces native and beneficial plants by its aggressive growth
- Broadcasts saline, increasing soil salinity excluding native vegetation
- Renders rangeland and grasslands worthless
- Dense stands can impede movement of wildlife
- Considered a potential fire hazard
- **Uses water at a much higher rate than native vegetation**

Distribution

- Found throughout Lake County, including rangelands, pastures, and riparian areas
- Thrives in full sun, but will also establish in shady areas



Salt Cedar can be easily identified in the Spring by its pink feathery flowers.



Salt Cedar spreads rapidly, growing so dense that it is often impenetrable.

*Control is not required for Lake County by the State of California, but is highly recommended wherever feasible.

Questions? _____
Lake County Agriculture Dept.
707-263-0217

What You Can Do

There are no legal requirements to control Salt Cedar in Lake County, but removal is highly recommended as part of rangeland and riparian management. You can prevent Salt Cedar from spreading by washing vehicles, boots, and animals that may have been in infested areas and removing it from your property wherever possible.

Control Methods

For best results, control methods should be adaptive and employed throughout several growing seasons.

MANUAL: For small sites with fewer plants, pull or dig up plants and remove as much root as possible so the plant will not re-sprout. This method can be highly labor-intensive and to be fully effective, all mature plants need to be removed so no new seeds are produced. Pulling of medium to large plants is much easier with specially designed steel weed wrench. Weed wrenches and alternatives can be found online. Controlled burning can also be effective for removing dense infestations. Check local regulations for special permits, burn bans, or other restrictions.

MECHANICAL: Mechanical control methods include mowing, burning, chopping, chaining, and disking. However, these methods usually only suppress salt cedar temporarily and will not eradicate infestations. Salt cedar is also able to resprout vigorously from the root crown following mechanical control methods. These methods can be labor intensive and expensive and may be more effective on small infestations. Mowing is occasionally useful to reduce the volume of Salt Cedar before treatment with herbicide, especially in relatively level sites where prescribed burning is not feasible. However, a single cutting of Salt Cedar is ineffective, because Salt Cedar resprout vigorously. Cleanup is also intensive, a single branch or twig can start a new plant if left in water.

CHEMICAL: Follow labels exactly as written and only use products appropriate and legal for the site.

Growth Regulators

Triclopyr
Garlon 3A
Garlon 4 Ultra
Pathfinder II

Herbicides should only be applied at the rates specified on the label.

Rate: Cut stump treatment: 50% to undiluted Garlon 3A (in water) or 25 to 100% Garlon 4 Ultra (in oil).

Basal bark treatment: 20 to 30% Garlon 4 Ultra in oil on young trees without well-developed bark. While many sources indicate that applications can be

applied year round, it is best to apply in summer or fall when plants are still growing and not water stressed. At this time, the greatest amount of herbicide will translocate to the below-ground tissues. Cut stump treatments can be very effective. Cut stems horizontally at or near ground level, and immediately apply herbicide solution to cover the outer 20% of the stump face. Can be mixed with a color dye to determine which trees have been treated. Basal bark treatments should be made to smaller trees with thin bark. Spray the lower trunk, including the root collar, to a height of 12 to 15 inches from the ground; the spray should thoroughly wet the lower stem but not to the point of runoff. For smaller trees 3 to 4 ft tall, a foliar treatment of 7 oz. aminopyralid (Milestone) + 3 qt. Garlon 4 Ultra/acre with 0.25% non-ionic surfactant or 1 qt/acre seed oil surfactant gives good control. Follow-up treatment of resprouts with this mixture will be necessary. This mixture is selective and will not injure desirable



The Tamarisk Beetle is the only biological control for Salt Cedar. They have been released in Colusa County, but not in Lake County at this tie.

grasses. For questions about herbicide use, contact the Lake County Agriculture Department.