

# Saltcedar

*Tamarix ramosissima* Ledeb. Tamarisk family

## Key identifying traits

- ❑ Flowers are pale pink to white with 5 petals
- ❑ Many tiny flowers are in each finger-like cluster at branch tips
- ❑ Leaves look like cedar and are small and scale like on highly branched slender stems
- ❑ May have appearance of a shrub or a small tree
- ❑ Bark on saplings and stems is reddish-brown

## Biology and ecology

- Grows as deciduous or evergreen shrubs or small trees, 5 to 20 feet tall
- Both *T. ramosissima* and *T. parviflora* are used as ornamentals, but have escaped and naturalized along streams, canals, and reservoirs in the west
- Aggressive colonizer forming single species stands in riparian areas of arid landscapes
- Secretes salt inhibiting growth of other plants
- Extensive root system combined with a high evapotranspiration rate can cause lowered ground water levels and dry up springs and marshy areas

## Control

*Prevention* - Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of fill dirt and seed from outside your area—Be careful with introduced ornamentals

*Biological* - Research is currently underway and field releases in the U.S. are pending. Not appropriate for the small amount of this plant found here

*Cultural* - Competitive vegetative cover helps but cannot prevent spread in susceptible sites

*Mechanical* - Repeated digging can be effective

*Chemical* - Several herbicides are effective at label rates but care must be used around moist areas

*Where found* - Ornamental plantings, usually single plants, of both *T. ramosissima* and *T. parviflora* have been noted here and there throughout Stevens County in residential areas. No confirmed escapes and naturalization known at this time, but wet sites within our more arid areas are potential locations for infestation



a pretty specimen in a local yard



leaves are scales like on Cedar trees



flowering stem