

Tamarix spp.

Saltcedar

Other common names:
tamarisk, tamarik

Tamaricaceae, the tamarisk family
Category: CONTAINMENT



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Deciduous trees and/or shrubs with juniper-like leaves
- Smooth woody stems are dark brown to reddish-brown
- Flowers are tiny, pink, 5-petaled, and borne in finger-like clusters

Background

- Native to Eurasia; introduced as an ornamental, and used in wind erosion control and stream bank stabilization
- Inhabits streams, canals, reservoirs, and rivers
- Reproduces by seed and vegetatively from root sprouts and stem fragments
- Stands can form monocultures which decrease biodiversity
- Roots pull salt from deep in the soil, leaves exude salt through special glands, salt is released into the ground when the leaves decompose; this process inhibits desirable native vegetation establishment

Photo Credit:

J.M DiTomaso, Regents of the University of California

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