

DECLARED PLANT

Tamarisks

Tamarix parviflora, *Tamarix ramosissima*

January 2015

Tamarisks are introduced shrubs or small trees, with clusters of small pink to white flowers, often planted for amenity in low rainfall and saline areas.

They are now declared under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, with prohibition on sale and movement throughout South Australia and enforced control in the Northern and Yorke, SA Arid Lands and SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM regions.

- **Other common names:** 5-stamen tamarisk, pink tamarisk, salt cedar (*T. ramosissima*). 4-stamen tamarisk, small-flowered tamarisk, salt cedar, flowering cypress (*T. parviflora*).
- **Origin:** *T. parviflora* is native to southern Europe & temperate Asia. *T. ramosissima* is from eastern Europe, through Asia to China and Korea.
- Are phreatophytes, plants that tap groundwater with a deep and extensive root system.
- Resemble native sheoaks and conifers with their drooping branchlets and scale leaves.

WHY ARE THEY A PROBLEM?

Tamarisks are invaders of riparian areas, particularly in arid areas.

- invade watercourses and wetlands
- prolific user of underground and surface water
- accumulate salt in leaves, which then is deposited on the soil surface, increasing salinity and inhibiting germination, growth and survival of native plants





DESCRIPTION

Habit: deciduous to semi-deciduous, multi-stemmed large shrubs or small trees, 1-6 m high. **Stems:** bark on saplings and stems of *T. ramosissima* is reddish-brown and on *T. parviflora* is brown to deep purple. **Leaves:** reduced to scales covering the branchlets. *T. ramosissima* rhombic to ovate, pointed to gradual tapering, 1.5-3.5 mm long growing closely to the branches. *T. parviflora* has lanceolate acuminate leaves which thicken towards the base. **Flowers:** *T. parviflora* is distinguished by its 4-petalled pinkish-white flowers, while *T. ramosissima* has 5-petalled pinkish-white to purple flowers. **Fruit:** all species have small, pointed capsules with 3-5 valves, containing numerous tiny seeds, tufted to aid spread by wind.

HOW THEY SPREAD

Tamarisks increase slowly by vegetative spread, but can spread long distances when root and branch fragments are moved by floods or machinery. The seeds are dispersed by wind, water and human activity. They only stay viable for a week, but can germinate in large numbers if seed fall coincides with favourable conditions.

HABITAT

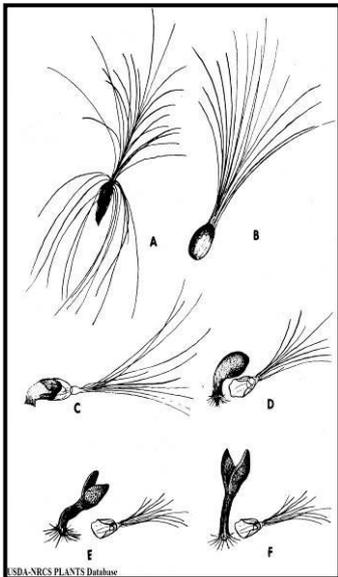
Found in coastal vegetation, arid watercourses and semi-saline swamps.

DISTRIBUTION

T. ramosissima occurs in the Murray, Yorke Peninsula, Southern Lofty and South East regions. It is also naturalised in New South Wales and Victoria. *T. parviflora* occurs in the Flinders Ranges, Eyre Peninsula, Northern and Southern Lofty, and Murray regions. It is also naturalised in Western Australia.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Seek control advice if you have this plant as a weed. Select alternatives to invasive garden plants. Read 'Grow Me Instead' for suggestions.



For more information

Contact your local Natural Resources Centre for information on controlling declared weeds:

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au

Further weed control information is also available at:

www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa

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