

# TAMARIX SPP.

[*T. CHINENSIS*, *T. RAMOSSISIMA*, & *T. PARVIFLORA*]

**AKA:** Tamarisk, Salt Cedar



Photo provided courtesy of The Nature Conservancy.

## **Alien Invader!**

A weed can be any plant that doesn't belong in a given area, but a non-native invasive plant is specifically harmful to the local native habitat. They are alien invaders to our watersheds. They can cause many watershed issues such as affecting the habitat of native wildlife, including threatened and endangered species; reducing water quality and water availability; increasing fuel load and creating wildfire hazards; and causing flooding, erosion, and sedimentation problems.

## **Tamarisk**

Tamarisk is a deciduous shrub or tree, which forms dense monotypic stands. It can grow up to 20 feet tall. It grows in generally moist soils and tolerates alkalinity. Tamarisk is a relatively long-lived plant that can tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions once established. It produces massive quantities of small seeds and can propagate from buried or submerged stems. It transpires up to 300 gallons of water per day!

## **Origin**

Tamarisk is a native of southern Europe and Asia. It was introduced by Spanish settlers and has historically been used for erosion control, wind breaking, and ornamental purposes.

## **The Problem**

Tamarisk has invaded over 1.5 million acres in the southwestern United States. It causes problems such as: 1) increased the salinity of surface soil, 2) dried up wetlands and riparian areas; 3) clogged stream channels, and 4) increased sediment deposition. Eradication is very difficult and very seldom 100% effective in a single attempt. Continued monitoring and aggressive removal is necessary to rid an area of Tamarisk.

## **Solutions**

Tamarisk eradication and management efforts must be coordinated. The longer removal and eradication is delayed, the greater the task and cost will become. The most common current methods of removal include physical removal with herbicide application. Biological controls are being tested for future use. For more information or to get involved in removal efforts, please contact your local Ventura County Resource Conservation District or Natural Resources Conservation Service office at (805) 386-4685.



Ventura County Resource Conservation District

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