



903 N. Black Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 582-3265

## SALTCEDAR MANAGEMENT TIPS

Saltcedar, a member of the Tamarisk family, is a perennial deciduous or evergreen shrub or small tree that can grow up to 20 feet tall. Saltcedar tends to grow in wetlands and along lake shores, streams and rivers. It has a deep taproot as well as adventitious roots on stems and branches. The stems are highly branched with smooth, dark brown to reddish-brown bark. The leaves are small, alternate on the stems and appear scale-like. The small flowers are pink to white and have five petals. The flowers are borne in fingerlike clusters on terminal and lateral branches. A single plant can produce up to 600,000 seeds per year. **Seed longevity is 45 days to six months.** Saltcedar reproduces from seed as well as from adventitious buds on underground stems. It exudes salt from its leaves, which increases soil salinity and may prevent native species from re-establishing. High densities of saltcedar can congest river channels and create potential flood hazards.



**Management and control efforts must be planned for several consecutive growing seasons at the existing site in order to prevent seed formation/ dispersal and to monitor for, and appropriately treat, any new plants that emerge from seed or roots.**

## **Effective control measures for the management of saltcedar include:**

- 1. Mechanical (hand pulling & digging):** Small immature plants may be controlled by removing all roots and underground stems. Return to the area for several years to monitor for and remove any new plants. Dispose of plant material by drying and burning or by placing material in a bag and taking it to your local landfill. Wear gloves when pulling or digging plants.
- 2. Herbicide: Always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** Calibrate your equipment to ensure that you are adding the proper amount of herbicide to your tank. The following herbicides are commonly used to control saltcedar.

### **Mixing rates are as follows:**

Garlon 4: Use as a basal bark or cut stump treatment (read the label for directions).

Arsenal: Apply to foliage or use as a cut stump treatment (read the label for directions).

Remedy: Use as a basal bark or cut stump treatment (read the label for directions).

- 3. Integrated management:** Management of saltcedar is more effective when more than one strategy is used.