

SALT CEDAR

Tamarix spp.



CONTROL

Hand Pulling

Hand pulling is not an effective method of removing salt cedar.

Mowing

Mowing is not an effective method of removing salt cedar, but it may be necessary and/or beneficial in increasing the efficacy of an herbicide application or a root ripping treatment.

Root Plowing

Root plowing at a depth of 12 to 18 inches has proven to be an effective method of controlling infestations of salt cedar. In order to prevent re-sprouting, all above ground vegetation and worked up plant material should be piled and burned.

Biological control

While there have been a number of insects that have been proven as effective biocontrol agents for salt cedar, there are currently none available in Montana at this time.

Grazing

Salt cedar is only palatable as new sprouts and seedlings. Grazing is not a practical or effective method of control for salt cedar in Western Montana.

Ideal Timing for Treatment Options

Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Root Plowing, Pile & Burn			
Cut stump		Cut stump	
		Cut stump	
Mowing (In Prep for Herbicide)			

Herbicide

There are a few herbicides that have been somewhat effective in managing salt cedar; some with a foliar application and some as cut-stump treatments. The herbicide chart on the back lists approved controls for salt cedar. Also check with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before implementing treatment to take note of migratory birds and their nesting in salt cedar during certain parts of the year. Always consult product labels and read them carefully to ensure correct species/land management usage and chemical application.



Saltcedar Life Cycle

Life Cycle	Root	Leaves	Stems	Flower	Seed/Fruit
Perennial deciduous or evergreen shrubs or small tree	Deep taproot	Small leaves on green stalks are alternate, overlapping, and appear scale-like. Foliage salty to taste.	5 to 20 feet tall, highly branched, smooth, dark brown to reddish-brown bark.	Small, pink to white, with 5 petals borne in fingerlike clusters on top and lateral branches.	Extremely small seeds with a tuft of hairs on tip, contained in capsules.

Herbicides for Saltcedar, *Tamarix spp.*

Active Ingredient	Rate	Efficacy	Comments
Triclopyr ester	20-30% Solution	Effective as a stump-cut treatment; apply directly to stump immediately after cutting.	Cannot be used in sites near water. Do not cut stump treatments during heavy sap flow in the spring.
Imazapyr + glyphosate	1.5 quarts + 1.5 quarts	Requires surfactant and blue indicator dye. Late summer to early fall when plants are taking up nutrients – plants should be healthy and not stressed.	Wet all foliage of branches with spray, esp. terminal ends. Nonionic surfactant for broadcast spray. Apply two full growing seasons before follow up treatment. Can cause injury to surrounding plants if root systems extend into treatment area.
Imazapyr	2 quarts/ acre at 1% mix for foliar spray	Effective foliar application. Late summer to early fall when plants are taking up nutrients – plants should be healthy and not stressed.	Wet all foliage of branches with spray, esp. terminal ends. Nonionic surfactant for broadcast spray. Apply two full growing seasons before follow up treatment. Do not apply during heavy sap flow in the spring.
Triclopyr	50% solution	Effective as a stump-cut treatment; apply directly to stump immediately after cutting	Any time of year is acceptable for application besides days

Information on diagnostic identifying characteristics adapted from "Montana's Noxious Weeds" by Pokorny and Mangold, Montana State University Extension Bulletin EB0159.