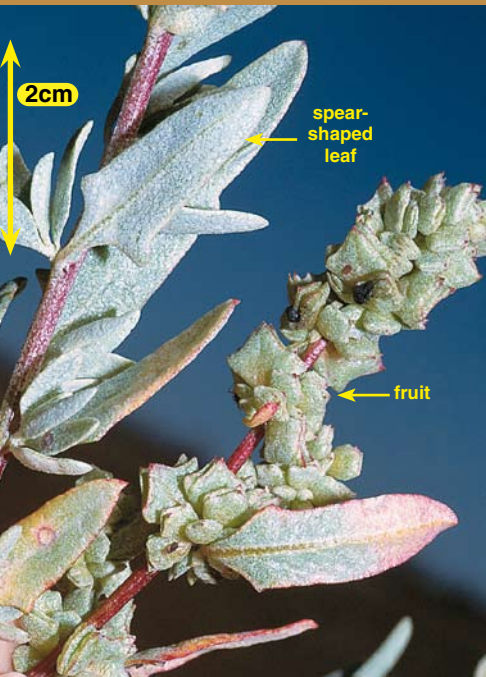


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SALTdeck Series

RIVER SALTBUUSH

Atriplex amnicola

S7
SHRUB



RIVER SALTBUSSH

Atriplex amnicola

Sustainable
Grazing on
Saline Land



SALTdeck Series

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S7

Family: Chenopodiaceae.

Description: Perennial shrub to 2 m tall and 4 m wide (although generally smaller) that can be prostrate or erect. Stems touching the ground may form roots. Leaves 1 cm to about 3 cm long. Generally, male and female flowers on separate plants (dioecious) (see photo). Fruits woody or papery 2–6 mm wide. Flowering is variable depending on seasonal conditions.

Key features: Leaves variable in shape but often characteristically spear-shaped (see photo).

Value: Low to moderate energy value—at best it only provides maintenance for dry sheep. Moderate crude protein and up to 25% salt in leaves. Some supplements (grain, pasture or hay) and good quality drinking water are essential. River Saltbush is more palatable to sheep than other livestock. Once established, extremely tolerant of heavy grazing for short periods of time.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: Moderate to high salinity tolerance and high drought tolerance. Once established it can tolerate winter waterlogging surviving several weeks of flooding in winter.

Notes: Native of Gascoyne and Murchison area of WA. Seed harvested in late summer. Sometimes difficult to establish by seed. Readily grows from stem pieces. Commonly sown in mixtures with other saltbushes (especially in WA).

References: *Saltland Pastures in Australia*, Barrett-Lennard, 2003. *Forage Shrubs and Grasses for Revegetating Saltland*, Runciman & Malcolm, 1991. Bulletin 4153, WA Dept. of Agric. *Variation within and between two saltbush species in plant composition and subsequent selection by sheep*, Norman, et al., 2004, Australian Journal of Agric. Research, 55, 999–1007.

