

RUBY SALTBU**S**H

Enchylaena tomentosa

S8
SHRUB



RUBY SALTBUSSH

Enchylaena tomentosa

Sustainable
Grazing on
Saline Land



SALTdeck Series

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S8

Family: Chenopodiaceae.

Description: Variable, mostly hemispherical shrub to about 1 m high. Branchlets hairy to hairless. Leaves without stalks, mostly cylindrical or slightly flattened on three sides, to about 15 mm long. Flowers small, solitary in the leaf axils. Fruit fleshy, 4–6 mm wide. Flowers most of the year, mainly spring to early summer and fruits usually present in September to April.

Key features: Fruits green at first ripening red, yellow, orange or puce and drying black.

Value: Provides stabilising cover in woodlands and scalded or saline areas. Not generally grazed except in periods where there is little other grazing available but frequently only remains in areas protected by fallen timber as it is not very tolerant of grazing.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: Low tolerance to waterlogging and moderate tolerance to salinity.

Notes: Native to Australia. Two varieties are recognised var. *tomentosa* and var. *glabra*; var. *tomentosa* is widespread and common and distinguished by its woolly branchlets and hairy leaves (see photo)—var. *glabra* is generally less woolly and hairy. Ruby Saltbush is very common across temperate and sub-tropical Australia. It is very hardy and survives long periods of drought.

References: *Flora of South Australia*, Jessop and Toelkien (eds), Part 1, 4th edition 1986. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 3, 1999. *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 1, 1990. *Plants of Western NSW*, Cunningham et al., 1981.

