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SALTdeck Series

SMOOTH HELIOTROPE

Heliotropium curassavicum

H8
HERB



SMOOTH HELIOTROPE

Heliotropium curassavicum

Sustainable
Grazing on
Saline Land



SALTdeck Series

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H8

Family: Boraginaceae.

Description: Prostrate or ascending hairless fleshy perennial to about 25 cm tall. Leaves narrow to about 4 cm long on a short indistinct stalk. Fruit fleshy, containing a cluster of 4 nutlets.

Key features: A characteristic narrow flowerhead that is curled at the end, succulent bluish-green leaves with a conspicuous main vein, and white flowers with a yellow throat (see photo) that turns blue after pollination.

Value: Mostly left untouched by stock, and generally an undesirable weed, recorded as toxic to humans and livestock although sometimes used in herbal preparations.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: Moderate tolerance to saline and alkaline soils. Limited to areas that dry and do not remain waterlogged for long periods such as seasonally inundated or groundwater filled areas or the drying beds of watercourses and inland waterbodies. Also responds to good seasons.

Notes: Native to North and South America, now naturalised in all mainland States. A minor weed of newly developed land, sparsely planted cropland, roadsides and ditch banks.

References: *Flora of South Australia*, Jessop and Toelken (eds), Part 3, 4th edition 1986. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 3, 1996. *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 4, 1993. *Plants of Western NSW*, Cunningham et al., 1981. *Weed Handbook of California*, Fischer, University of California, Publication 4030, 1981.

