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SALTdeck Series

# SMALL-LEAF BLUEBUSH

*Maireana brevifolia*

S10  
SHRUB



# SMALL-LEAF BLUEBUSH

*Maireana brevifolia*

Sustainable  
Grazing on  
Saline Land



SALTdeck Series

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S10

**Alternative names:** Short-Leaf Bluebush, Yanga Bush.

**Family:** Chenopodiaceae.

**Description:** Semi erect to upright shrub to 1 m high with striate (parallel ridges) stems. Flowers solitary in the leaf axils (leaf stem junction). Fruit 6–8 mm diam., with 5, often overlapping wings to 3 mm long. Flowers from late spring to early winter.

**Key features:** Sparsely woolly stems and scattered, bluish-green, fleshy, alternate leaves 2–5 mm long, to 10 mm long when the plant is not flowering.

**Value:** Highly palatable and recovers from grazing. Low to moderate energy and high crude protein. May contain oxalates and nitrates at toxic levels and up to 30% salt. Due to toxins and salt it must be grazed with alternative forage species or with supplements.

**Salinity and waterlogging tolerance:** Moderate tolerance to saline soils but will not survive waterlogging or inundation for more than a few days.

**Notes:** Native in Australian States, often grows on saline soils and roadsides. Relatively easy to establish from seed and produces many volunteer seedlings.

**References:** *Saltland Pastures in Australia*, Barrett-Lennard, 2003. *Forage Shrubs and Grasses for Revegetating Saltland*, Runciman and Malcolm, WA Dept. of Agric. Bulletin 4153, 1991. *Flora of South Australia*, Jessop and Toelken (eds), Part 1, 4<sup>th</sup> edition 1986. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 3, 1996. *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 1, 1990. *Plants of Western NSW*, Cunningham et al., 1981.

