

**Salt Cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*), Chinese Tamarisk (*Tamarix chinensis*)  
Smallflower Tamarisk (*Tamarix parviflora*)**

**Description**

A spreading, deciduous shrub or small tree. It grows to 8 m tall, and can form dense thickets. Branches are numerous; slender, with small, alternate, grayish-green overlapping scale-like leaves. Leaves often become encrusted with salt secretions. Branches take on a brown-purple color as they age. Bark of young branches is smooth and reddish-brown. Pale pink to white flowers bloom in dense masses on 1 cm wide spikes at branch tips. Flower petals and sepals occur in fours and fives. Flowers are pollinated by bees and other insects and produce greenish-yellow to pinkish-red capsules, which split into three to five parts on maturity.

**Key Identifiers**

- ✓ features fine-textured, juniper-like foliage, but is neither evergreen nor coniferous, producing true flowers
- ✓ reddish, slender, arching branchlets
- ✓ pale gray-green scale-like leaves
- ✓ plumes (dense feathery racemes) of pink/white flowers

**Location in Canada**

Naturalized populations have been found in BC. *Tamarix* spp. is sold as an ornamental under the name "Pink Cascade" Tamarisk in some nurseries. Ornamental plants are known to exist in Alberta, none have escaped, yet.

**Resources**

<http://www.invasiveplants.ab.ca/Downloads/FS-SaltCedar.pdf>

Biology of Invasive Alien Plants in Canada. 11. *Tamarix ramosissima* *T. chinensis* and hybrids

**Similar species**

Species identification is difficult because some of the species are very similar in appearance and hybridization is common. Distinction between *Tamarix* sp is based on differences in morphology of the nectary disk and staminal filaments that are often difficult to separate, as the traits are not clearly expressed.

Salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) is 5-merous, with nectar disk lobes wider than long, stamens alternate disk lobes. Leaves ovate. Smallflower tamarisk (*Tamarix parviflora*) is 4-merous, with nectar disks longer than wide, stamens together with disk lobes. Leaves linear. Chinese tamarisk (*Tamarix chinensis*) is 5-merous, has persistent petals, nectar disk lobes wider than long, stamens alternate of disk lobes. Leaves oblong to narrowly lanceolate.

