

Saltlover (*Halogeton glomeratus*)

POISONOUS

Description

A small forb growing to 30 cm in height. Stems red when young, turning yellow to white with maturity. Stems are branched from base, spreading first, and then growing vertical. Leaves are alternate, simple, fleshy and tubular. Leaves have a bluish-green color with a small hair at the end of the leaves. Flowers are small and inconspicuous, in leaf axils. Two flower types are present; larger flowers that are 2-3 mm wide with 5 light yellow or greenish-yellow sepals, and smaller flowers with tooth-like sepals. Neither of these flower types have petals, but they both have 2-5 stamens and 2 stigmas. Also produces from two types of seed; a black seed, with yellowish or reddish fan-like wings and similar to a snail coil, and a brown wingless seed. Seeds are often very numerous, forming a mass from the ground to the tip of the leaves. Halogeton is high in oxalates and is a serious health threat to grazing animals, especially sheep.

Key Identifiers

- ✓ Small fleshy leaves
- ✓ Leaf tip bluntly rounded, tipped with a stiff bristle 1-2 mm long
- ✓ Hairless, except for tufts of long white interwoven hairs in the leaf axils
- ✓ Petals lacking. Sepals 5.
- ✓ Most flowers have petal-like sepals with narrow oblong bases and membranous fan-shaped tips.

Location in Canada

Not known to be in Canada.

Resources

<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/forb/halglo/all.html>

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ipc/weedinfo/halogeton.htm>

Similar species

Kochia (*Kochia scoparia*) Before flowering, saltlover can sometimes resemble immature kochia. Kochia can be differentiated by its pubescent leaves that do not have a stiff bristle at the tip.

