



## Salsola kali

### Prickly saltwort, Russian thistle, Prickly glasswort

#### General

1. An exotic, annual, erect, xerohalophytic forb.
2. Highly effective reproducer and seeds are dispersed by wind.
3. Grows in disturbed or unoccupied sites from below sea level to 8.550 ft.

#### Geography and Habitat

1. *S. kali* is native to Eurasia and found throughout most arid and semi-arid regions of the world.
2. In North America, it's range extends from British Columbia east and south to Northern Mexico.
3. It is most commonly found in west-central United States and along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.
4. Also found throughout Hawaii.
5. Occurs in many different habitats; Most common along seabeaches and in disturbed desert and grassland communities.
6. *S. kali* grows in any type of well-drained, uncompacted soil exposed to the sun.
7. Most frequent in alkaline or saline soils due to reduced competition.
8. Cannot tolerate saturated soil for an extended period of time.

#### Economic and Ecological Impacts

1. However, if topsoil is absent, *S. kali* can dominate disturbed sites for up to 10 years.
2. It is possible for lambs to develop mouth ulcerations from eating dry *S. kali*.
3. Rain or snow-softened Russian thistle acts as a laxative upon livestock, potentially harming the already weak.
4. Deteriorated livestock ranges from drought or overgrazing are frequently invaded and dominated by *S. kali*.
5. *S. kali* competes with crop plants for space, water, and nutrients.
6. "It is the primary host for the beet leafhopper (*Circulifera tenellus*) that vectors the curly-top virus of sugar beets, tomatoes, and curcubits".
7. *S. kali* is considered a noxious weed due to its dominance and obstruction to roadways, stream channels, fence lines, and fire hazards.

#### Management Difficulty

1. If *S. kali* dominates a disturbed area, it would be most beneficial to remove the topsoil instead of removing *S. kali*.
2. 2, 4-D or bromoxynil used in combination with dicamba was 80-94% effective in controlling *S. kali*.
3. Metribuzin used in combination with chlorsulfuron gave 95-100 % control.
4. Biological control agents: insects from the genera *Celeophora*, *Microlarinus*, and *Trichosirocalus*.

#### Source

1. Howard, Janet L. 1992. *Salsola kali*. In: Fire Effects Information System, [Online]. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fire Sciences Laboratory (Producer). Available: <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/> [2011, January 11].



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