

HALOGEN

Halogeton glomeratus



Description:

Halogeton is a winter to summer annual with an erect growth habit reaching 12 inches in height, much branching from a long taproot. The taproot can reach depths of 20 inches with lateral roots spreading 18 inches in all directions. Leaves are cylindrical and fleshy, resembling sausages. Leaves are typically bluish green, 3 to 20 mm (0.12 to 0.79 in) long and 1 to 2 mm (0.04 to 0.08 in) thick ending in a slender hair-like spine. Stems can be reddish to purple. The flower is membranous and fan-like with wings 2 to 3 mm long and 3 to 4 mm wide. The fruit is a utricle hidden by the sepals and contains brown-black seeds. Halogeton looks similar to Russian thistle during flowering stage.

Halogeton is a poisonous noxious weed introduced from Eurasia into the United States early in the 20th century. Since that time it has spread to cover millions of acres in the western valleys. It is highly toxic to both sheep and

cattle. It has caused the death of countless sheep in the Intermountain West and Great Basin.

Habitat:

This species inhabits disturbed sites, road sides and arid lands in poor ecological condition in all western states. It is often found in large stands in cheatgrass, salt desert shrub, shadscale, saltbush, saltgrass, juniper and pinyon/juniper plant communities.

Prevention:

Halogeton thrives on disturbed sites. Proper grazing management and management of site disturbance are critical to reduce halogeton invasion. Early detection and control via mechanical and chemical methods are required to prevent major infestations.

Control:

The best control method for halogeton is prevention. This can be achieved by not disturbing the soil in potential infestation sites. If disturbance is required, follow disturbance by planting site to species adapted to the harsh environment. Halogeton can be controlled by mechanical tillage, but for long term control this must be followed by reseeding. Since revegetating droughty, low rainfall ecological sites is difficult, early detection and response to infestations is imperative for adequate control (CDFA 2008).

For chemical treatment, apply metsulfuron at 0.45 oz active ingredient (ai)/acre (0.75 oz product/ac) to actively growing plants with a surfactant. 2,4-D LV ester at 1 to 2 lb acid equivalent (ae)/acre is also effective when plants are actively growing before bloom stage in mid summer (William and Dailey 2003). Chemical application may damage native and desired plants. Chemical control must be followed by actively altering the plant community with desirable plants to have a lasting affect.

Always read label and safety instructions for each control method. Trade names and control measures appear in this document only to provide specific information. USDA NRCS does not guarantee or warranty the products and control methods named, and other products may be equally effective.

Because halogeton typically occupies droughty low rainfall ecological sites, there are few options for reclamation species. These include: crested wheatgrass, Siberian wheatgrass, Russian wildrye, tall wheatgrass, Newhy hybrid wheatgrass and forage kochia, Native species options include thickspike and streambank wheatgrass, Sandberg bluegrass, slender wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, sand dropseed, saltbush and globemallow species.

