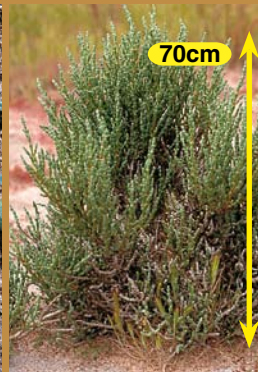
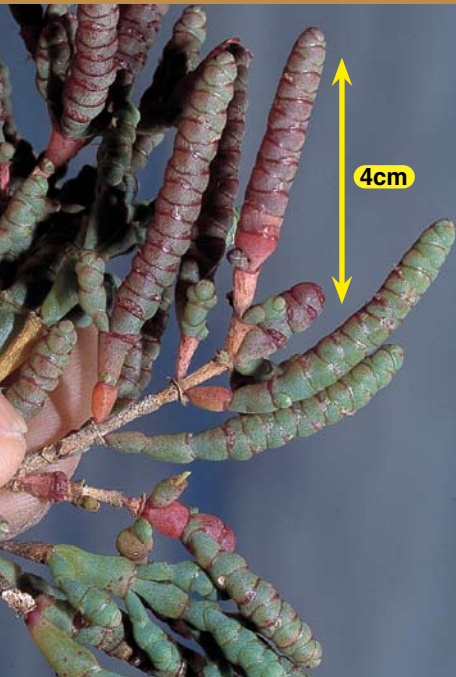


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SALTdeck Series

SAMPHIRE *Halosarcia* spp.

S9
SHRUB





Family: Chenopodiaceae.

Description: Perennial erect or spreading shrubs to 1 m tall, often growing in waterlogged and saline areas. Samphires do not have obvious leaves. Seeds about 1 mm wide smooth or with ribs or projections when seen under 10x hand lens. Flowers mostly summer to autumn, depending on latitude.

Key features: Jointed green to reddish-purple, succulent, articulated stems and branches composed of numerous segments. Flowers minute, in rows at the base of the fruiting segments (see photo). Fruit spongy, pithy or hard. Seeds black, brown, smooth or roughened depending on the species. Seeds can usually be located by splitting or rubbing the ripe segment.

Value: Poor grazing value due to extreme salt accumulation and slow growth. High crude protein. Young plants may be palatable however alternate feed is required for liveweight maintenance.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: Able to tolerate hypersaline, alkaline and waterlogged soils. Good pioneer plants for saline land reclamation.

Notes: 23 species all native to Australia. Widespread inland, along coasts and estuaries and the margins of salt lakes. Susceptible to trampling by stock. Good indicators of areas that are too waterlogged or salty for economically viable planting of more productive species. Must be grazed in conjunction with other feed.

References: *Flora of South Australia*, Jessop and Toelkien (eds), Part 1, 4th edition, 1986. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 3, 1999. *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 1, 1990. *Plants of Western NSW*, Cunningham et al., 1981. *Saltland Pastures in Australia*, Barrett-Lennard, 2003. *Forage Shrubs and Grasses for Revegetating Saltland*, Runciman and Malcolm, WA Department of Agriculture Bulletin 4153, 1991. *Samphires in WA, a field guide to Chenopodiaceae tribe Salicornaceae*. Datson, 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, WA.

