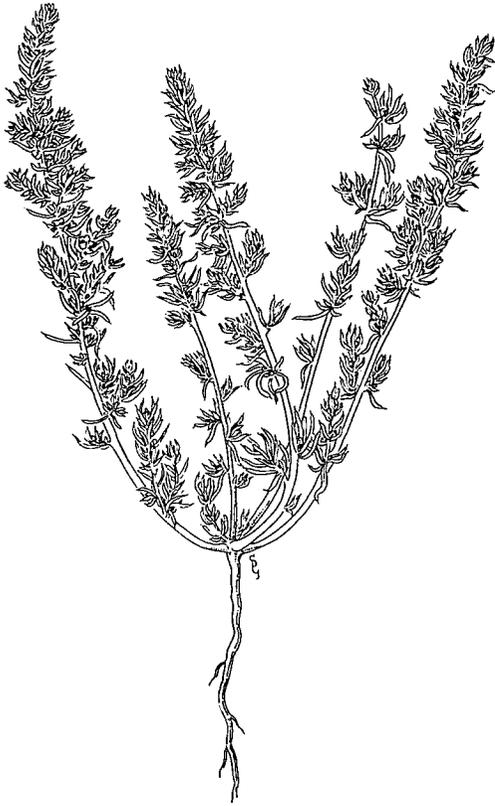


Halogeton

(Halogeton glomeratus)



Where does it grow? Halogeton grows best on bare or disturbed soils of the salt desert range land. Salt desert ranges generally support shadscale, winter-fat and related species. Halogeton does well where native range plants are thin or low in vigor. Overgrazed range land is an open invitation to halogeton as are areas along roadsides and railroad tracks.

Is it important? Halogeton poisons livestock. Sheep are the most susceptible, but a few cattle deaths have been attributed to halogeton. Since its introduction from Asia in the early 1930's, halogeton has become one of the major poisonous plants on western rangelands. It dominates millions of acres in Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and southern Idaho. In Oregon it is found only in Harney, Lake, and Malheur Counties.

What does it look like? Halogeton appears as a low, spreading to erect herb which turns straw-colored in mid-summer. The stems are often reddish tinted. In September, dense clusters of seeds are present on the upper stems.

Description:

Length of Life--Annual.

Growth Period--Germination begins in early spring, flowers in July, seeds mature late in September.

Height--Six to eighteen inches tall, spreading stems may form a bush from a few inches to a yard across.

Leaves--Fleshy, cigar-shaped, 1/4 to 3/4 inch long with a short bristle or spine at the tip.

Flowers--Inconspicuous and greenish.

Fruits--Winged, very numerous on the upper stems.

Stem--Straw-colored after mid-summer, often reddish tinted.

Does it look like anything else? Halogeton may be mistaken for Russian thistle. However, tufts of white cottony hairs occur in the leaf angles of halogeton, while these are absent in Russian thistle. Halogeton is never harsh or prickly.

What are the symptoms of halogeton poisoning? First signs of animal poisoning are muscular weakness and droopy head. Symptoms progress as labored breathing, frothing around nose and mouth, coma and death. There is no cure and death occurs within a few hours.

How can halogeton be controlled? Spraying with 2,4-D will give fair control of current season plants. However, halogeton will reinvade the area unless the area is seeded to more desirable plants. Good range management is the best control. Halogeton will not invade a range in good condition.

Plant sketch from "Livestock Poisoning Weeds of Oregon" by Helen M. Gilkey.