



KEY CHARACTERISTICS

growth Noxious bushy summer annuals, with rigid branches and reduced, stiff, prickly upper stem leaves (bracts) at maturity. With stiff hairs or almost hairless. Grows to 1 m tall.

stems Stems **green and white striated**, straight, erect to ascending. Sometimes slightly arched.

leaves Cotyledons and subsequent leaves needle-like. Leaves alternate, but often appear opposite. Up to 5 cm long, pliable, +/- succulent to leathery, with a soft bristle at the tip and expanded bases that extend a short distance down the stems (slightly decurrent). Foliage +/- glabrous, covered with minute projections.

flower Flowers solitary or 2-3 per axil, +/- hidden by 2 large, fleshy, spine-tipped bracts. Bracts 4-8 mm long,

lanceolate, appressed to stems and strongly overlap one another. Sometimes with gall-like flowers in leaf axils of the lower portions of plants.

Perianth parts lacking or narrow, mostly less than 1 mm long, with minutely irregular-toothed margins

fruit Utricles, 3-5(7) mm diameter including sepal wings when present, also hidden by 2 large bracts. Apex acute, weak and flaccid.

note Plants dry gray to brown. Main stems break off at ground level allowing plants to disperse seeds as they tumble. Skeletons persist for at least one year and are typically found along fences and other structures.



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Elevation:
328-6500 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:
Dunes, desertlands, scrublands, grasslands & woodlands.

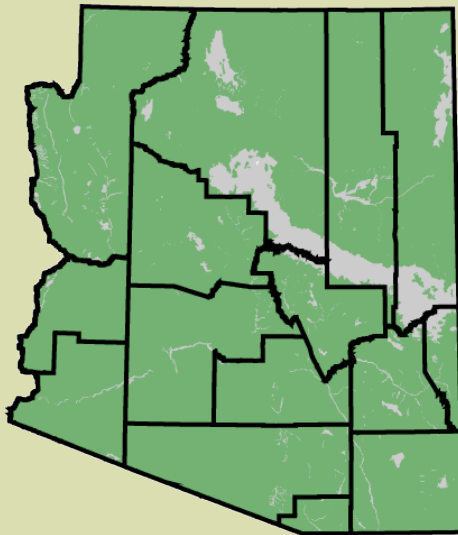
ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

Salsola collina is found in waste places, roadsides, railway areas, cultivated fields, disturbed natural and semi-natural plant communities.

Its distribution is patchy throughout northeastern and north central North America, and there are some patches within the four corners states.

Salsola is drought tolerant which allows it to prevail in the semidesert range of the western states. The seeds require little moisture for germination. Seed longevity is short and rapidly declines after two years in the soil.

SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.

