INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Saltlover (*Halogeton glomeratus*)

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

DESCRIPTION

- Annual forb in the amaranth family native to Russian, Central Asia and China.
- Multiple stems branch off from base, spreading horizontally first then growing upwards, giving a curved appearance and reaching up to 45 cm tall.
- Stems red when young, becoming yellow to white with maturity.
- Semi-succulent leaves are alternately arranged, narrow, tubular, and fleshy. Leaves are blue-green in colour, about 2 cm long and tipped with a stiff bristle.
- Flowers are located directly on stem next to leaves; two types present: larger flowers 2 -3 mm wide with 5 light yellow bracts, and smaller flowers with tooth-like sepals.
- Produces two types of seeds: early summer seeds are tan and wingless; seeds in late summer are dark brown and winged.

Mature saltlover
Joseph M. DiTomaso

PRIMARY THREATS: Saltlover is toxic to cattle and more so sheep; fatal instances have occurred. Also accumulates and excretes mineral salts, making it difficult for other plants to establish.

Saltlover stem up-close
Bonnie Million

BIOLOGY & SPREAD

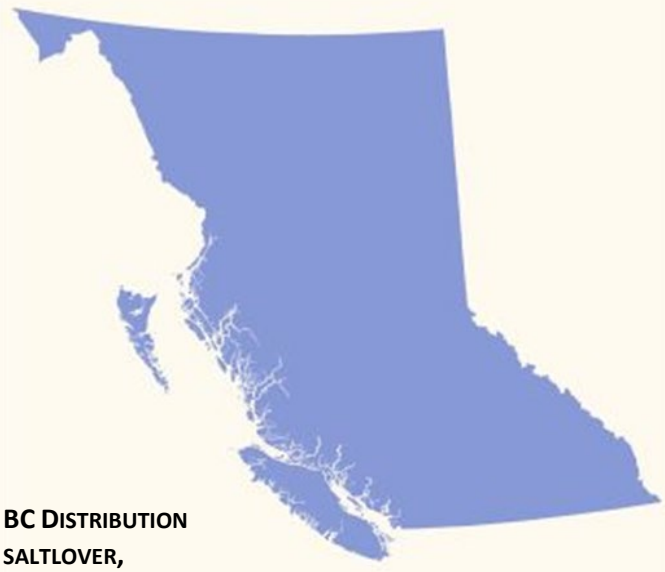
- Reproduces exclusively by seed.
- Produces numerous seeds, as many as 75 seeds per 2.5 cm of stem.
- Seeds can remain viable up to 10 years.
- Spread occurs by human activity, animals (including ants), water, and wind.
- Seeds can germinate in as little as one hour after being exposed to water.

For more information:
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants

BRITISH COLUMBIA

January 2026

Saltlover (*Halogeton glomeratus*)



BC Distribution
Saltlover,
January 2026

Habitat

- Saltlover commonly invades deserts, shrublands, grasslands, barren areas, dry lakebeds, and disturbed areas such as roadsides, overgrazed prairies, and waste lands.
- Particularly abundant in alkaline or saline soils.
- Prefers arid to semi-arid areas and shrub lands.

Distribution & Status

- Not yet known to occur in BC but is present in areas in the western United States.
- Management goal is preventing establishment in BC.

Saltlover in bloom
Photo: Matt Lavin

Seedling
Photo: Clinton Shock, Oregon State Univ., Bugwood.org

Report Invasive Species

Download the App!

IAS

www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

What Can You Do?

- **REPORT** new sightings
- **Maintain** healthy and diverse pastures and rangelands
- **Rotate** grazing
- **Clean** equipment when moving from site to site

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British Columbia