

# *Salsola kali*

## PRICKLY RUSSIAN THISTLE

### *Amaranthaceae*

Common Synonyms: *Salsola kali* subsp. *pontica*

**FLEPPC Category:** -

**FDACS Listed Noxious Weed:** No

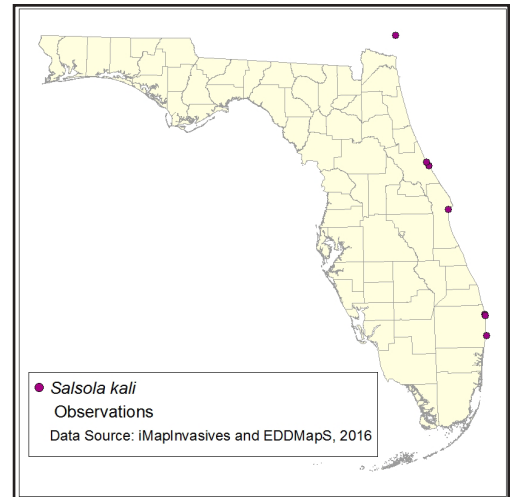
**IFAS Assessment**

North	OK
Central	OK
South	OK

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4b-11

**Growth Habit:** Herb

**Origin:** Russia



USDA APHIS PPQ Archive, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

**Description:** Annual herb 5-150 cm tall and wide. Stems dense, erect to ascending, branched from base, branches curved into an arc or, occasionally, almost prostrate. Stems with red or purple stripes on young plants. Leaves alternate, linear, cylindrical or awl-shaped, 1.3-6.5 cm by 1-2 mm, with a spine at tip. Flower solitary, small, greenish to white, petals lacking. Perianth segments with comparatively narrow wing or sometimes prominently winged, with weak acute apex, glabrous, midvein obscure. Fruiting perianth 4-6(-8) mm diameter.

**Habitat:** beaches

**Florida Introduction Date:** introduced to US in the 1870s.

**Control Methods:** Mechanical: Pull or uproot young plants or hoe just below ground level before seed set..

Chemical: Glyphosate can provide control of *Salsola kali*. Apply the herbicide before seed set..

**Useful Resources:**

Flora of North America. Vol. 4 Page 399, 400, 401. [http://efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora\\_id=1&taxon\\_id=242415637](http://efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=242415637). Accessed on June 24, 2014.

Morisawa, T. *Salsola kali*. BugwoodWiki. 2014. [http://wiki.bugwood.org/Salsola\\_kali](http://wiki.bugwood.org/Salsola_kali). Accessed on June 24, 2014.

**Comments:** When the plant is mature, it breaks off at the ground forming ?tumbleweeds? that are tossed by the wind, scattering seeds. A single plant can produce 100 - 200,000 seeds.