

© photos G. Sainty
SALTdeck Series

CREEPING SALTBUSH

Atriplex semibaccata

S2
SHRUB



CREEPING SALTBUSSH

Atriplex semibaccata

Sustainable
Grazing on
Saline Land



SALTdeck Series

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S2

Alternative name: Berry Saltbush.

Family: Chenopodiaceae.

Description: Prostrate perennial sub-shrub to 40 cm high. Male and female flowers in small clusters in the leaf axils. Grows scattered or in clumps. Flowers summer.

Key features: Leaves green to grey-green above, whitish below. Fruit 4–6 mm long, roughly diamond-shaped, sometimes red and succulent when fresh (see photo).

Value: Very palatable, especially when young. Low energy value and good crude protein. Leaves contain up to 25% salt, so supplements (grain, pasture or hay) and good quality drinking water are essential. Easily overgrazed if set-stocked.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: Moderate tolerance to salinity. Low tolerance to waterlogging.

Notes: Native to Australia and widespread in all mainland States. Individual plants are short-lived perennials. Seeds prolifically and these can be collected in late summer by shaking the plant.

References: *Flora of South Australia*, Jessop and Toelken (eds), Part 1, 4th edition 1986. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 3, 1996. *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 1, 1990. *Plants of Western NSW*, Cunningham et al., 1981. *Forage Shrubs and Grasses for Revegetating Saltland*, Runciman and Malcolm, WA Department of Agriculture Bulletin 4153, 1991.

