



Northern  
Territory  
Government

# Tamarix species

## how to tell the difference

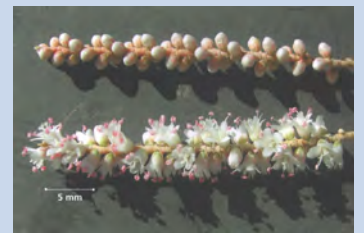
There are three species of Tamarisk in Australia - Athel pine (*Tamarix aphylla*), Tamarisk (*T ramosissima*) and Smallflower tamarisk (*T parviflora*). Each of these weed species has distinctive characteristics.

### Athel pine - *Tamarix aphylla*

- **Evergreen not deciduous**
- **5 flower petals**
- **Up to 18m tall**
- Flower colour pinkish-white, small and stalkless
- Flower spikes 3-4cm long growing at the end of the previous year's branches
- Strong woody roots that penetrate and spread deeply throughout the soil
- Pendulous, jointed branches
- Minute leaves are a dull grey-green and form a sheath around the fine branchlets giving them the appearance of pine needles
- Needle segments are uniform and 1-2mm long
- Surface of leaf is whitish due to salt secretion with prominent pores
- Immature trees have light grey trunks and stems
- Mature trees have thick, rough grey-brown to black bark on older stems
- Bark on new stems is smooth and reddish-brown to grey-green
- Naturalised along Finke River, Walker Creek and Karinga Creek NT; Kings Creek Mt Isa, Flinders River Hughenden, Gemfields and Cracow QLD; Gascoyne River, Carnarvon, Telfer and Laverton WA; Kenmore Park, Mt Fitton, Mt Searle, Frome Downs and Quinyambie Stations SA; Imperial Lake and Stephens Ck Broken Hill NSW.



Athel pine leaves  
Photo: Les Tanner



Athel pine flowers  
Photo: Les Tanner



Athel pine seedlings



Severe Athel pine infestation along the Finke River, Northern Territory



Athel pine bark



Athel pine mature tree

For more information please contact:

National Athel Pine Coordinator  
Phone: 0427 186 153  
[www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/athelpine](http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/athelpine)

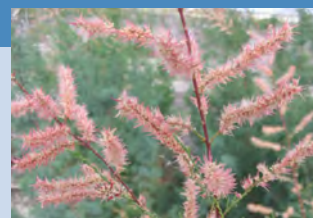


NATIONAL  
**Athel Pine**  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



## Tamarisk - *Tamarix ramosissima*

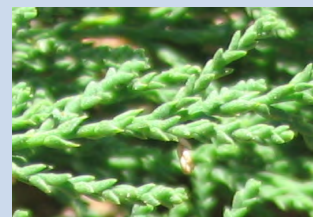
- **Deciduous to semi deciduous**
- **5 flower petals**
- **Up to 6m tall and wide**
- Flower colour pinkish-white to purple, small and stalkless
- Flower spikes 3-5cm long growing at the end of the current year's branches
- Loosely branched shrub or small to medium tree
- Generally bushy in appearance
- Leaves are rhombic to ovate, sharply pointed to gradually tapering, 1.5-3.5mm long and evenly thick from base to tip
- Surface of leaf is more or less smooth with scattered pores
- Bark on older stems is grey-brown and on new stems is reddish-brown
- Easily confused with *T parviflora*
- Naturalised around Imperial Lake Broken Hill, Lake Cargelligo and Deniliquin NSW; creek-lines near Yunta and Mannahill, and Lake Alexandrina SA; Lake Boonderoo and Norseman Dam near Kalgoorlie WA; Lakes Murphy and Meran Victoria.



*T ramosissima* flowers



*T ramosissima* bark



*T ramosissima* leaves



Severe infestation of *T ramosissima* at Lake Boonderoo, Western Australia



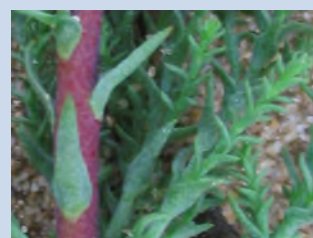
*T ramosissima* mature shrub

## Smallflower tamarisk - *Tamarix parviflora*

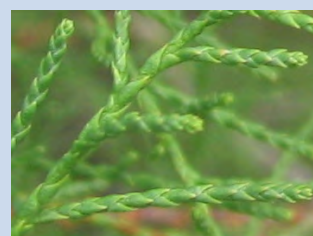
- **Deciduous to semi deciduous**
- **4 flower petals**
- **Up to 6m tall and wide**
- Flowers are small, pinkish-white
- Loosely branched shrub or small to medium tree
- Leaves lanceolate acuminate and distinctly thickened towards base
- New bark is brown-deep purple
- Naturalised along the Avon River (Toodyay, Northam, York area) WA from salinity and amenity plantings



*T parviflora* flower  
Photo: Barry A Rice



*T parviflora* bark



*T parviflora* leaves



*T parviflora* along the Avon River, WA