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SALTdeck Series

BUSHY STARWORT

Aster squamatus

H2
HERB



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Aster squamatus



Alternative names: *Aster subulatus*, Wild Aster.

Family: Asteraceae.

Description: Erect annual herb to 1.6 m tall. Stems wiry, branched. Flowerheads in a panicle, each flowerhead of several flowers (or florets), ray flowers white, pink or blue. Seed narrow, ribbed and hairy to about 3 mm long with a pappus of silky bristles to about 4 mm long (see photo). Flowers mostly summer.

Key features: Narrow leaves with a clasping base. Bracts around the heads with a reddish tip (see photo).

Value: Is grazed when young but has limited value except in situations where cover is needed to limit erosion.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: Moderate tolerance to saline soils, but is not adapted to growing in freewater situations.

Notes: Native of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. Now naturalised in many parts of the world. Widespread on the margin of wetlands and saltmarsh. Widespread weed of damp places and intermittently inundated land. Often confused with species of Fleabane *Conyza* spp.

References: *Flora of South Australia*, Jessop and Toelken (eds), Part 3, 4th edition 1986. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 4, 1999. *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 1, 1990. *Plants of Western NSW*, Cunningham et al., 1981.

