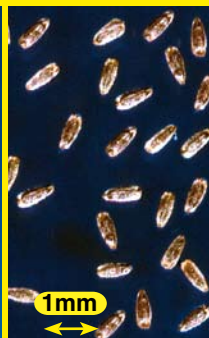


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SALTdeck Series

WATER BUTTONS

Cotula coronopifolia

H11
HERB



WATER BUTTONS

Cotula coronopifolia

Sustainable
Grazing on
Saline Land



SALTdeck Series

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H11

Family: Asteraceae.

Description: Spreading, low-growing perennial to about 15 cm high. Leaves alternate, to 7 cm long, stem-clasping, with a sheathing base (see photo), margins entire or deeply lobed. Spreads by rooting from the lower nodes and grows in water to about 50 cm deep. Flowers throughout the year.

Key features: Flowerhead a bright yellow 'button' to 1.5 cm wide on a stalk to 8 cm long.

Value: Excellent indicator of salinity and waterlogging. Readily eaten by stock until it flowers. Moderate levels of energy and crude protein. Has been suspected of poisoning grazing animals.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: High tolerance to saline and waterlogged conditions. Thrives in estuarine saltmarsh that is frequently inundated with sea water.

Notes: Native to Australia although until recently it was mistakenly thought to have been introduced from South Africa. Now spread around the world. Common in freshwater coastal wetlands and saltmarsh and also widespread inland. Seeds survive for up to 2 years depending on conditions. Good pioneer species.

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. *Waterplants in Australia*, Sainty and Jacobs, 4th edition, 2003.

