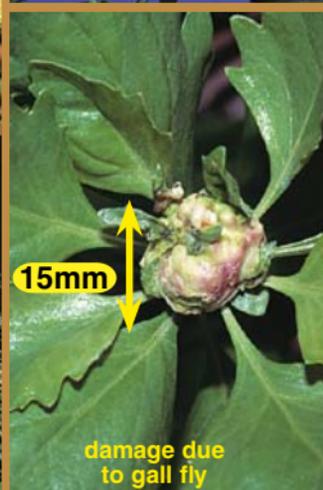
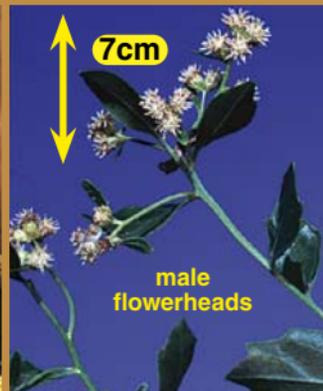
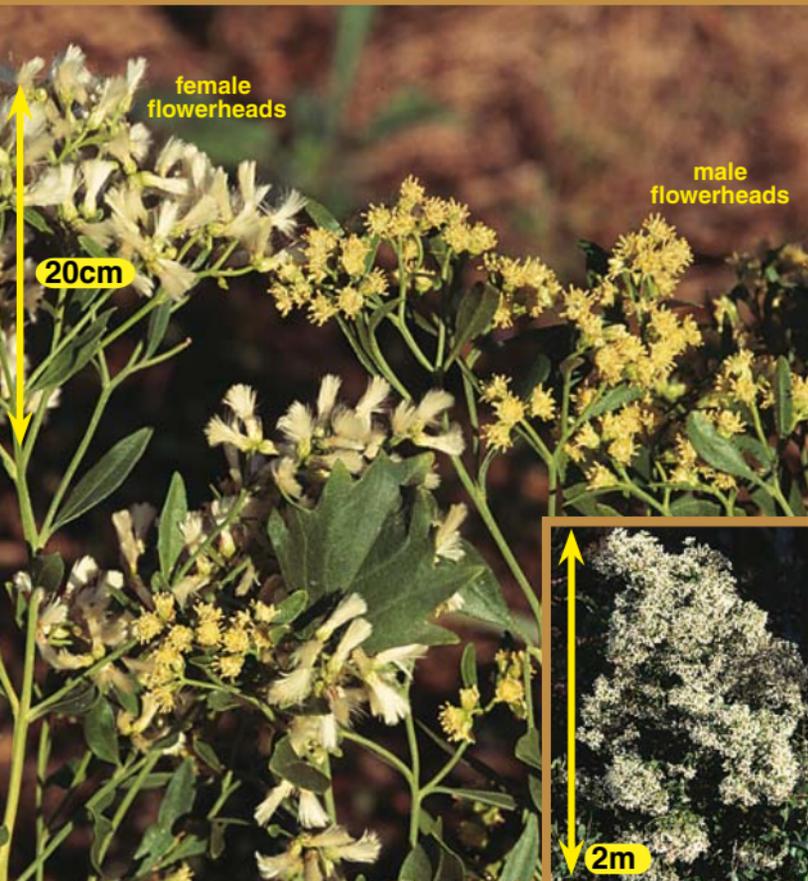


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SALTdeck Series

# GROUNDSEL BUSH *Baccharis halimifolia*

S3  
SHRUB



# GROUNDSEL BUSH

*Baccharis halimifolia*

Sustainable  
Grazing on  
Saline Land



**SALTdeck Series**

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S3

**Alternative names:** Consumption Weed, Groundsel, Groundsel Baccharis, Groundsel Tree.

**Family:** Asteraceae.

**Description:** Erect perennial shrub or small tree to 2.5 (rarely to 7) m high. Stems much branched, small branches striate and hairless. Leaves to 7 cm long and to 4 cm wide on a stalk to 1.5 cm long (see photo). Seeds ribbed, hairless, to 1.7 mm long with hair-like bristles at apex. Female plants enveloped in white hairs during seeding. Flowers mostly autumn. Seeds germinate at any time; plants mature after 2 years. Normally evergreen.

**Key features:** Trapezoidal leaves usually with a few large teeth towards the apex (leaves at ends of branches often lack teeth) and on a stalk; plants male or female; flowerheads in panicles, male florets cream to pale yellow, female florets white (see photos); receptacle (where seeds attach) without scales.

**Dispersal:** Most spread by wind-dispersed seed. Long distance dispersal also by seeds on animals, in stock feed or in mud on vehicles.

**Value:** Has low feed value and is suspected of poisoning livestock.

**Salinity and waterlogging tolerance:** Favours low-lying land near the sea (moderately salt tolerant) but also grows in disturbed hinterland sites. Appears to thrive in seasonally inundated areas but does not thrive in areas that remain saturated throughout the year.

**Notes:** Native of eastern North America and West Indies. Introduced in mid 1800s. A number of insects and a rust have been introduced for biological control of this shrub. A major weed; currently spreading.

**Reference:** *Noxious Weeds of Australia*, Parsons and Cuthbertson, 1992.

