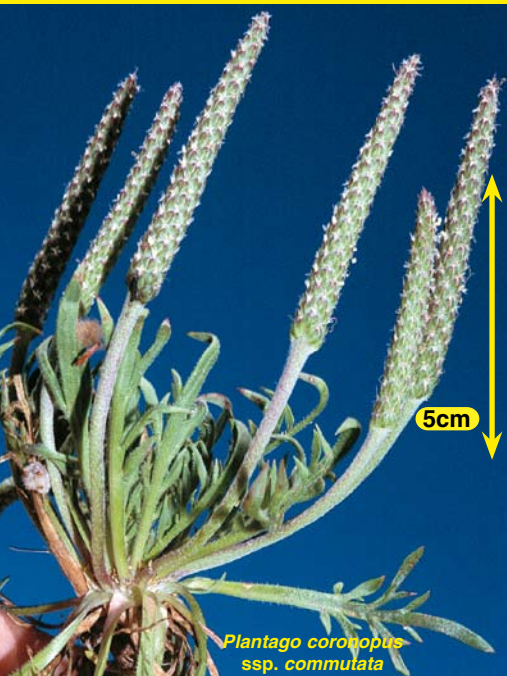


BUCK'S HORN PLANTAIN

Plantago coronopus

H1
HERB



BUCK'S HORN PLANTAIN

Plantago coronopus

Sustainable
Grazing on
Saline Land



SALTdeck Series

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H1

Family: Plantaginaceae.

Description: Annual or short-lived perennial with spreading or ascending lobed, hairy or hairless leaves. Flowerhead a dense cylindrical spike at the end of stout flower stem. Flowers throughout the year but mostly spring to summer.

Key features: Leaves in a rosette spreading from a robust taproot (see photo). Good indicator of salinity. Leaves turn reddish under high salinity.

Value: Palatable to stock but does not provide significant forage bulk. Green through summer where it has access to groundwater. Tolerates low fertility but responds well to fertiliser. Moderate energy and crude protein levels.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: Moderate tolerance to salinity and waterlogging but will not survive if submerged for extended periods.

Notes: Introduced from western Europe and western Asia and the Mediterranean. There are two subspecies in Australia that overlap in their distribution. *Plantago coronopus* ssp. *coronopus* has slender, longer flower stems that are much longer than the leaves and is more common in coastal areas, whereas *Plantago coronopus* ssp. *commutata* has shorter stout flower stems and is more common in inland areas.

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. 3, 1992. *Plants of Western NSW*, Cunningham et al., 1981.

