

RHAGODIA

Rhagodia spp.

S6
SHRUB



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Family: Chenopodiaceae.

Description: Spreading or erect shrubs to about 2 m tall. Stems vary from rigid to weak; leaves variable in shape, entire or lobed, channelled or semi round; much branched. Flowers mostly summer through autumn.

Key features: Leaves with a silvery or metallic sheen or mealy surface and hairs of varying shape usually visible with a hand lens (see photo). Fruits to 3–4 mm diam., fleshy, maturing pink to red.

Value: Not all species of *Rhagodia* are grazed by stock. *Rhagodia spinescens* is widespread in NSW, Victoria and South Australia. This species is moderately palatable to stock but only when other more palatable species are absent.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: Moderate tolerance to saline soils. *Rhagodia candolleana* ssp. *argentea* grows near inland salt lakes in South Australia. Generally not adapted to intermittently inundated or waterlogged land.

Notes: Eleven species all native to Australia. Important hardy sub-shrubs that survive droughts, changes in salinity and usually survive periods of overgrazing. Some bushy species have become targeted for removal as they provide cover for rabbits.

References: *Flora of South Australia*, Jessop and Toelken (eds), Part 1, 4th edition, 1986. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 3, 1996. *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 1, 1990. *Plants of Western NSW*, Cunningham et al., 1981.

