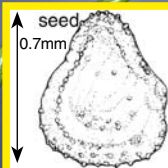
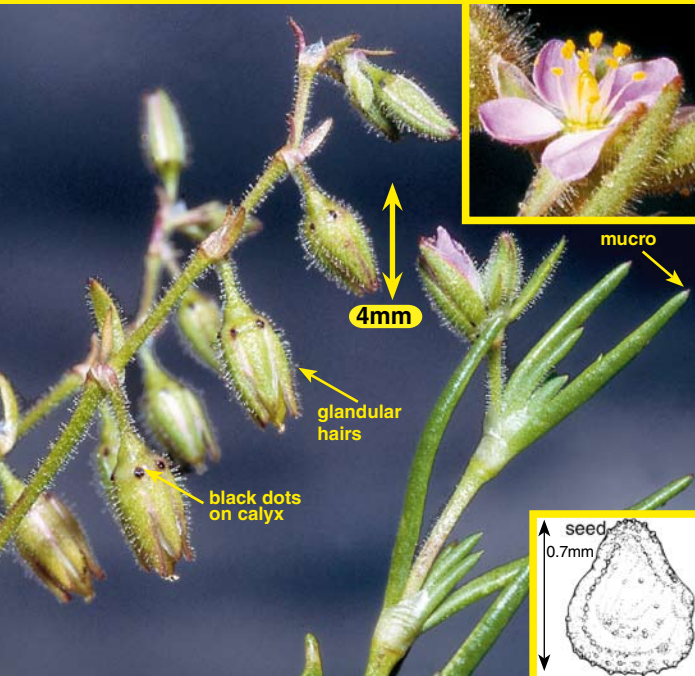


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SALTdeck Series

SALT SAND SPURRY

Spergularia marina

H7
HERB



SALT SAND SPURREY

Spergularia marina

Sustainable
Grazing on
Saline Land



SALTdeck Series

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H7

Alternative name: Lesser Sea Spurrey. **Family:** Caryophyllaceae.

Description: Semi-erect to spreading branched annual or short-lived perennial with a slender taproot. Leaves linear, fleshy to 5 cm long. Flowers pink with white base. Outer flower case (sepals) glandular hairy (see photo).

Key features: Leaves with a blunt end or a short point (mucro) (see photo). Base of flower (calyx) with black dots (see photo). Seeds broadly pear-shaped, 0.6–0.8 mm long, pale rust-brown, occasionally darker. The most reliable distinguishing feature of species in this genus is seed shape and colour. *Spergularia marina* seed has minute nipple-shaped projections (papillae) which are paler in colour than the seed coat (testa) (see illustration). Often confused with *Spergularia rubra*.

Value: Primarily a spring to summer grower but may remain green throughout the year. Highly palatable to stock but produces a small volume of forage of moderate energy value. Crude protein content is variable.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: High salinity tolerance, but vigour is reduced by waterlogging.

Notes: Native of Australia. Both *Spergularia rubra* and *S. marina* are usually treated as introduced. Widespread and common in saline areas. Useful pioneer plant on saline soils where it may form dense mats on otherwise bare ground.

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

