

"B" Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant, but may have limited distribution in some counties

Halogeton

Halogeton glomeratus

Other common names: Saltlover, aral barilla

USDA symbol: HAGL

ODA rating: B



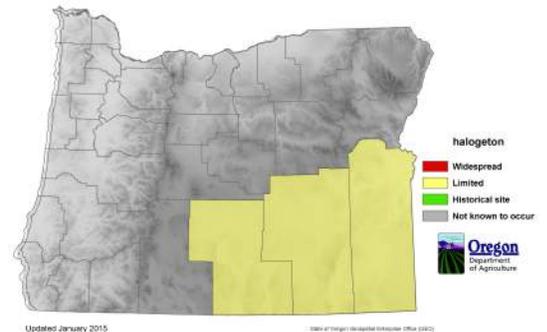
Introduction: A plant of salt pans and very marginal range land, halogeton can be hazardous to grazing animals. The first collection of halogeton in the United States was near Wells, Nevada in 1934. The first recorded siting in Oregon was near Rome in 1959. Halogeton now covers millions of acres across the western U.S., thriving in marginal rangelands and where competition is sparse.

Distribution in Oregon: Halogeton is native to central Asia. In Oregon, it occurs in Malheur, Harney and Lake Counties.

Description: Halogeton is a succulent summer annual growing a few inches to 1½ foot tall. The taproot can reach depths of 20 inches with lateral roots spreading 18 inches in all directions. Its main stems branch from the base, spreading horizontally at first then becoming erect. Plants are blue-green in spring and early summer, turning red or yellow later in the season. Leaves are small, fleshy, nearly tubular and tipped with a needle-like spine. Flowers are inconspicuous and borne in the leaf axils. Blooming period lasts from July to September. Halogeton is very prolific seeder producing as many as 75 seeds per inch of stem. Mature plants often break off, tumbling across the landscape, spreading seed as it rolls. Seed can survive ingestion by sheep and rabbits.

Impacts: Halogeton thrives in dry alkaline rangelands as well as waste ground and roadsides. Halogeton is toxic to cattle and sheep but they typically avoid it if desirable forage is available. Sheep appear to be one of the main dispersal agents of halogeton and have most often been victims of its poison. Most losses occur when hungry or thirsty animals are allowed to consume large amounts of this succulent plant. The toxic substance in halogeton is soluble sodium oxalate which is found in both fresh and dried plants. The toxic dose is 0.3 to 0.5% of the animal's body weight when consumed over a short period of time. Halogeton excretes mineral salts making it harder for other plants to grow around them. Good rangeland and grazing management are important in reducing halogeton populations and their impact.

Biological controls: No approved biological control agents are available at this time.



Oregon Department of Agriculture • Noxious Weed Control Program
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www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/Default.aspx

Photos by Clinton Shock, Oregon State University and Joseph DiTomaso, UC Davis, Bugwood.org