TAMARISK

Top, middle: Tamarisk in the fall, during growing season. Bottom: beetle-impacted tamarisk.

Scientific name: Tamarix spp.

Identification

A small tree, 5 to 25 feet tall, with feathery, dark-green leaves. Bark is smooth and maroon when young, eventually turning dark brown and furrowed. Produces delicate pink flowers in spring. If a tree has been impacted by the tamarisk beetle, its leaves will be brown or yellow and dead.

Why they're an issue

Like Russian olive, tamarisk greatly elevates fire risk. As a "ladder fuel," it connects ground fuels to canopies with dry, dense limbs. It can also exacerbate flood risk by creating "debris dams" that block flood flows. Tamarisk is an aggressive invasive, crowding out native plants and limiting wildlife and human access to waterways. Finally, it is very flammable since its leaves are full of oils and waxes.

Initial treatment

Same as Russian olive. Tamarisk trees can first be dealt with via cut-stump treatments, where trees are cut nearly flush with the ground and herbicide is carefully applied to the stump's cambium (living outer layer). Stumps may later grow resprouts, which will have smooth red bark and thin, feathery leaves.

Retreatment *(instructions on back)*

Landowners should remove resprouts from stumps and carefully re-apply herbicide where new plant tissue was exposed. In addition, any new saplings growing from the ground should be pulled by hand or with a weed wrench. This is best done in late summer or early fall, when the plants are actively growing.

TAMARISK *Retreatment*

1. For **resprouts:** Remove & treat (2 options)

Why we recommend these methods
These treatment methods are relatively low-effort, and use little herbicide. They are effective at stopping resprouts before they grow too much, and discourage their growth in the future.

Timing
The best time is **late summer or early fall**, when trees are actively pulling nutrients into their roots. Late spring is an OK backup.

Materials
Herbicide, dye, applicator, small cutting device like pruners, personal protective equipment, trash bag or safe location for burning

At-a-Glance Instructions* (2 options)

Cut-stump method

1. **Prune** resprouts coming up on or around stumps
2. Within 5 minutes, apply **herbicide** to the cut surfaces
3. **Dispose** of biomass or **pile to burn**. Do not scatter!

— OR —

Foliar spray method

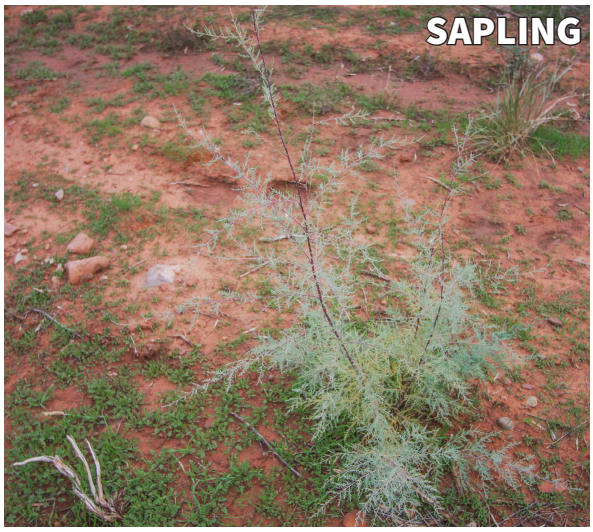
1. If resprouts are too small to cut individual stems, mist carefully with herbicide.

2. For **saplings**: Pull

Why we recommend this method
It's straightforward and requires minimal equipment. It neutralizes saplings before they become a bigger issue!

Timing
Anytime. At least once a year; frequently enough that saplings are less than 2' tall. Pulling is easiest in moist soils.

Materials
Shovel/weed wrench (optional); trash bag or safe spot for burning *(not in Moab City)*

Instructions

1. **Pull** saplings by hand or with a weed wrench.
2. **Dispose** of saplings or **pile to burn**. Do not scatter!