SMALL-LEAF BLUEBUSH Maireana brevifolia

S10 SHRUB

SALTdeck Series









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LWW & AWI 2006

Alternative names: Short-Leaf Bluebush, Yanga Bush.

Family: Chenopodiaceae.

Description: Semi erect to upright shrub to 1 m high with striate (parallel ridges) stems. Flowers solitary in the leaf axils (leaf stem junction). Fruit 6–8 mm diam., with 5, often overlapping wings to 3 mm long. Flowers from late spring to early winter.

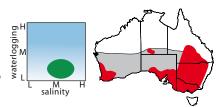
Key features: Sparsely woolly stems and scattered, bluish-green, fleshy, alternate leaves 2–5 mm long, to 10 mm long when the plant is not flowering.

Value: Highly palatable and recovers from grazing. Low to moderate energy and high crude protein. May contain oxalates and nitrates at toxic levels and up to 30% salt. Due to toxins and salt it must be grazed with alternative forage species or with supplements.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: Moderate tolerance to saline soils but will not survive waterlogging or inundation for more than a few days.

Notes: Native in Australian States, often grows on saline soils and roadsides. Relatively easy to establish from seed and produces many volunteer seedlings.

References: Saltland Pastures in Australia, Barrett-Lennard, 2003. Forage Shrubs and Grasses for Revegetating Saltland, Runciman and Malcolm, WA Dept. of Agric. Bulletin 4153, 1991. 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.



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