

Halogeton



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[*Halogeton glomeratus* (M. Bieb.) C. A. Mey.]

Halogeton is an annual weed in the goosefoot family and grows from a few inches to more than 2 feet tall. The plant grows low to the soil surface at first, then branches become erect. Plants turn from blue-green early in the season to yellow or red by late summer. The leaves are small, sausage shaped and have a short spine at the end. The flowers are found in the leaf axils, are greenish and not showy. The tap root can grow nearly 2 feet down and out from the crown allowing this plant to survive dry conditions. The brown-black seeds are contained in a bracted pouch that give the plant a wooly appearance. The plant first was reported in North Dakota in 2009.

Halogeton is native to Russia and has spread to millions of acres in the West. The plant often is found in alkaline soils and semiarid regions, especially in disturbed areas. Halogeton contains soluble sodium oxalates that are poisonous to sheep and cattle when consumed in large quantities.

