



Delta Discovery

Connecting Classrooms to Nature at the Nueces Delta Preserve

Pickleweed



Fast Facts:

Scientific name:

Salicornia spp.

Common names: *pickleweed*,
glasswort

Habitat: *salt marshes and salty soils*

Fun fact: *Edible!*

Spotlight on a Species

Fact sheets discussing species found on the Nueces Delta Preserve

Pickleweed is a halophyte, or salt tolerant plant that thrives in salty soils. This plant stores salt in order to regulate osmosis during times of submersion. By having a higher salt content than the surrounding water it will not dehydrate when covered by flood. The high salt content also makes it unsuitable for animals to eat unless they have a large supply of fresh water.

Pickleweed is an edible plant found locally. We often let students sample this plant during our high school halophyte discussion. Current research is being done globally and locally on using this plant for biofuel, protein meal for shrimp & other aquaculture production, human food and to absorb excess nutrients.

Other common halophytes found on our property include:

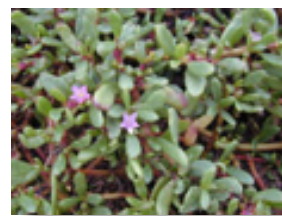
Saltwort



Sea ox-eye daisy



Sea purslane



Cordgrass



Sources for Further Reading:

<http://ccag.tamu.edu/mariculture-flour-bluff/salicornia/>

<http://chocolateandzucchini.com/archives/2007/06/salicornia.php>

http://www.boston.com/news/world/articles/2008/07/27/scientist_raises_interest_in_seawater_farming/