



## **Establishing Fourwing Saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) by Transplanting in Arid Zones in Northern Mexico**

Jesus Enrique Cantu Brito; Universidad Autonoma Agraria Antonio Narro; Contact Author Email: [drcantuje@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:drcantuje@yahoo.com.mx)

A four year study was carried out to evaluate the establishment, density and production of fourwing saltbush in 2.2 acres in arid zones in northern Mexico. The study was conducted from march 2002 to December 2006 in the UAAAN campus. Establishing plants in a greenhouse and transplanting to the field resulted in the most satisfactory stands for forage production in this region. The transplanting was done in early spring (March) in a plant spacing from 8 to 10 feet within row and 10-12 feet between rows just before first precipitation using plotted structures in order to capture water from precipitation. To reduce weed competition was necessary manual control, and for excessive insect was control with chemical applications. The stand had very severe damage by rabbit and rodent, that were controlled by shooting and physical barriers. Stand typically took three to four years to establish, but once established the plants were fairly competitive with other species and adapted to the stand by themselves. The annual precipitation for forage and seed production of fourwing saltbush was an equivalent of 10 to 12 inches in this region (220 mm). After a four year of establishment, the density for small, medium and large plants/ha were 7645, 4716 and 2150, and forage production were 1650, 4430 and 3360 kg of dry matter per hectare. This trait appears to be under arid conditions valuable in improving fourwing saltbush for revegetation of rangelands.

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