

**The ENEMY:** Red orach (*Atriplex rosea*)

**Strategy:** This annual invader, also called tumbling saltweed, is an invader from Eurasia. It likely came to the U.S. in the ballast of ships. This plant is in the same family as Kochia and Russian thistle. Similarly, it has a deep taproot. The plants leaves are silver to green appearance, and sometimes they will turn red (generally in the fall). The leaves can appear oval, but generally they are triangular in shape, with wavy margins. They are mealy and scruffy and aligned along hairless stems. The plant can grow up to 4.5 feet in height and can be found in disturbed sites, old farm sites, and along roads. It has small flowers that grow in clusters on the tips of the stems.

**ATTACK:** This invader has really grown in numbers this year due to the dry, hot weather. It is very efficient at robbing the soil of valuable nutrients and moisture. As in its alternate name states – Tumbling Saltweed, it breaks off and tumbles to disperse it's seeds: like its close relatives – Russian thistle and Kochia (it's in the same family). Although edible early in the year, the plant can be toxic to livestock if consumed in large numbers.

**DEFENSE:** As this is an annual plant, mechanical control can be effective. Disking the sites early and often will control the plant. Getting some of the root out with a shovel is also effective when there are just a few plants. Once you have determined mechanical control is not worthy, use herbicides such as 2,4-D with Dicamba (Weedmaster or Rangestar) (64oz/ac) or use Floroxypyr (Vista or Starane) (16oz/ac). These products control most annual broadleaf plants. As with Kochia and Russian thistle if you wait until they are very mature (flowering) you are better off with a mower to mulch them up and try a better plan next year. Consult a weed professional for proper identification or contact our office and we will come to your place and determine the next step of invasive weed management.