

‘Santa Rita’

Fourwing Saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*)

Native Shrubs for Conservation

TUCSON PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

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Fourwing saltbush is a native perennial shrub 3 to 6 feet tall. Male and female flowers occur on separate plants. Collections of ‘Santa Rita’ fourwing saltbush were made at the University of Arizona’s Santa Rita Experimental Range in southern Arizona. Fourwing saltbush is likely the most widely used shrub for restoration in the southwest U.S. Fourwing saltbush is both drought and cold resistant and relatively easy to establish, even on harsh sites. It may also facilitate establishment of other native species that are more difficult to establish. Fourwing saltbush provides valuable habitat and year-round browse for wildlife and livestock. Its protein, fat, and carbohydrate levels are often comparable to alfalfa. It also provides habitat and food for at-risk species such as the desert tortoise.

Foundation seed of ‘Santa Rita’ for certified seed increase is available from the Tucson Plant Materials Center. For more information on using ‘Santa Rita’ fourwing saltbush contact the Tucson Plant Materials Center or your local NRCS office.

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