Plants for saltland: this is bluebush

Department of Agriculture, Western Australia
PLANTS FOR SALT-LAND

THIS IS BLUEBUSH

The photograph shows bluebush (Kochia brevifolia) growing on salty land east of Corrigin.

Bluebush occurs naturally in the 12-16 inch rainfall belt in Western Australia. It may occur on your farm. Advisers called in to discuss salt problems with farmers have often found bluebush growing on the property and have recommended that it be given every encouragement. Alternatively it may be growing next door or in the road or rail reserve and be waiting for an opportunity to colonise your salt patch.

The best ways to encourage it are:
- Fence your salt area and keep stock out for at least two years.
- Cultivate the soil to leave it rough so that it will catch blowing seeds.

When the bush becomes established the effort will be well repaid. The type of salt patch to which bluebush is suited is well drained areas in the 12-16 inch rainfall belt. It provides very productive and nutritious fodder.
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