

# Alkali Heath (*Frankenia salina*)

**Order:** Caryophyllales

**Family:** Frankeniaceae (Frankenia Family)

**Flowers:** April - September

*Frankenia salina* is a perennial often sprawling subshrub. It spreads out via rhizomes. It occurs in a few locations on the peninsula. Stems can be hairy or glabrous. The leaves are opposite, generally leathery and have a fused sheath. The blade of the leaf can be obovate to oblong-oblancoelate or elliptic and have margins entire or hairy. The leaf can be glabrous to somewhat hairy (especially near base of blade). The leaf margins are slightly rolled under. The leaves also become salt encrusted. The corolla of the flower can range in color from white to dark pink or a bluish-purple. The stamens are exserted out of the corolla and often have purplish anthers. The style is also exserted out of the corolla and is 3 to 4 branched. The fruit is a loculicidal capsule that is contained within a persistent calyx. The seed is a brownish color.

