

The Urrbrae Wetland

Indigenous Plant Trail

The Urrbrae wetland indigenous plant trail consists of a number of provenance plants that were used by Aboriginal People for food, medicine, fiber and tools.

Each of these plants is marked with a small sign, containing information about the traditional uses and cultural importance of the plant.

Kurana people have been consulted throughout this project, however the majority of information printed here and on the signs is from published resources.

Do NOT pick or remove any plant material.

Education @ the wetland

Groups are welcome to take a self-guided tour of the Indigenous Plant Trail. An activity booklet is provided, that encourages students observe, record and analyse the types of local plants that assisted the Aboriginal people to live successfully and sustainably for 1000'S of years.

To plan your visit, please contact the Wetland Manager or visit the Urrbrae Wetland Website www.urrbraewetlandlc.org

Spiny Flat Sedge

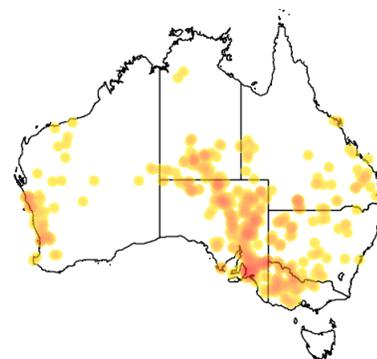
Cyperus gymnocaulos

Description: Cyperus are clumped plants, with long stems that have a round cross section. The stems of this species can grow up to 1m high, with the leaves being much smaller and located at the base of each stem.

Flowers are produced all year round with the flowering spikes differing slightly between the species.

Other Information: The dense foliage and network of roots makes Cyperus sp. an excellent soil stabiliser. It usually forms dense colonies on the edge of waterbodies and has the ability to add oxygen into the sediment and take up nutrients present in the water.

Aboriginal Uses: The strong stems were used to make fine baskets, mats and string. Women would collect the stems, which were trimmed, dried and then moistened. They would then comb the pith away from the internal fibers with their fingers and hand these fibers over to the men who would twirl it into string. The string was used to make many things including baskets, mats and nets to catch emus, fish and flying birds.



Distribution Map [1]



References

[1] Australia's Virtual Herbarium, 'species: *Cyperus gymnocaulos* Steud'

<http://avh.ala.org.au/taxa/urn:lsid:biodiversity.org.au:apni.taxon:132139>

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City of Mitcham (2012), 'Aboriginal Life and Use of Wetlands',

<http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/page.aspx?u=1499>

Department of Environment WA, 'Spiny Flat Sedge', Plant Chat,

<http://www.water.wa.gov.au/PublicationStore/first/84813.pdf>

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Do not pick or eat native plants as removal of plant material as some plants contain poisonous substances.