Cyperus gymnocaulos
Spiny flat sedge

Inflorescence with young plantlet
**Cyperus gymnocaules**

**Spiny flat sedge**

**Plant features**

**Growth form**  Perennial, clumping sedge, 0.35–1m high, with creeping rhizomes from which new stems arise. It forms loose clumps to open colonies. Often has small plantlets which grow from the old inflorescence. These plantlets can produce plantlets themselves while still attached to the parent plant. They will root if they touch the ground to become separate plants although will still remain attached to the parent plant for some time.

**Leaves/stem** The stems are 1.5–2.5mm wide, circular in cross section and up to 1m in length. The leaves are reduced to a loose sheath around the base. Stems are light to dark green while the leaves are reddish.

**Flowers** The inflorescence is at the top of stems and contains between 3–6 bracts, 20–45mm long. Composed of dense spikelets each 4–5mm by 3mm. The flowers are brown and occur from Jul – Mar.

**Distribution**

A very common wetland species from Kalbarri to Perth and into the Avon catchment as far east as Quairading with scattered populations in other parts of the catchment and state.

**Zone, habitat**

Occurs in fresh to saline waterways including creek, seeps and lake edges, especially disturbed areas or waterways with high nutrient levels. Found in most soil types.

**Additional information**

Excellent soil stabiliser and nutrient stripper for winter wet waterbodies due to its network of roots and dense foliage at the soil surface. Often forms dense colonies around waterbodies and can be the dominant species. Has the ability to pump oxygen into the sediment, which assists with essential microbial activity. Moderately salt tolerant but does not tolerate inundation for very long. Relatively drought tolerant compared to other sedges. Can be propagated by transplanting the creeping stems in winter and by seed but the most effective and successful technique is by cutting off the plantlets and planting into a moist substrate or pot. Collect seed in Jan–Feb and plantlets almost year round.