Sporobolus virginicus

Native marine couch

Seed heads
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Plant features

Growth form  Perennial, C4, mat forming grass with numerous creeping scaly rhizomes, (stems that give rise to new plants). 10-40mm high.

Leaves  The leaf sheaths overlap and appear opposite. The leaf blades are 2-50mm long by 1-4mm wide and finish at a point.

Flowers  The inflorescence is dark grey, held above the plant on the end of stems, solid and 10-60mm long by 4-6mm wide. It contains many small single-flowered spikelets. Flowers mainly from Jan-Dec.

Fruits  The seed is egg shape, 0.7-0.9mm long.

Distribution

Found mainly in the western half of the Avon catchment, especially on the Avon River. Also found around the coast of Australia and inland where sufficient water is available.

Zone, habitat

Grows in a range of soil types but prefers lighter soils on fresh to moderately saline waterways including creek banks, swamps, floodways and lake edges.

Additional information

It is an excellent soil stabiliser and nutrient stripper for permanent and seasonal watercourses due to its network of roots and ground hugging foliage. Commonly found throughout the Avon where there is limited grazing. Very waterlogging and moderately salt tolerant. It is easily propagated by transplanting the creeping stems. Seed can be collected from Jan to Mar.