Eleocharis acuta
Common spikerush

Inflorescence
**Eleocharis acuta**

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### Plant features

**Growth form**
Perennial, spreading sedge, up to 0.7m high, with slender creeping rhizomes from which new stems arise. It often forms extensive colonies across shallow waterbodies.

**Leaves**
The stems are light to medium green, 1-3mm wide, circular in cross section and up to 0.7m in length. The leaves are reduced to one or more purplish sheaths around the base, with the upmost leaf having a needle-like blade.

**Flowers**
The inflorescence is at the top of stems and is a single spikelet 10-30mm long and 3-7mm wide, making the stem and inflorescence look somewhat like a spear. The spikelet contains several small flowers. Flowers brown and occur from Sep-Dec.

**Fruits**
The nut is smooth, brown, slightly compressed and 1mm wide by 1.5-2mm long.

### Distribution

An common wetland species from Carnarvon to east of Esperance and Kalgoorlie with scattered populations in the Avon catchment. Occurs in all other states.

### Zone, habitat

Occurs in fresh, seasonally waterlogged waterways including creek banks, swamps, floodways, seeps, clay pans and lake edges. Found in most soil types.

### Additional information

It is an excellent soil stabiliser and nutrient stripper for winter wet waterbodies due to its network of roots and dense foliage at the soil surface. It often forms dense colonies around waterbodies and can be the dominant species. Tolerates a wide range of water levels. Also has the ability to pump oxygen into the sediment, which assists with essential microbial activity. Very waterlogging tolerant. Used by birds as nesting material. The most effective propagation technique is by transplanting the creeping stems in winter. It can also be propagated by seed and tissue culture. Collect seed in Dec-Jan although there are problems with breaking the dormancy.