Juncus pallidus
Pale rush

Inflorescence
**Juncus pallidus**

**Pale rush**

### Plant features

**Growth form** Perennial, clumping, tussock-forming rush with small rhizomes (horizontal creeping stem) from which new vertical stems arise. 0.5-2m high.

**Leaves/stem** There are basal leaves, 120-230mm long which are reduced to a sheath around the stem. The stems are circular in cross section, pale green except for the base, which is pale rust-brown, 2-7mm wide by up to 2.0m in length and contains a continuous pith.

**Flowers** The inflorescence is near the top of stems, 25-185mm long, contains numerous straw coloured flowers each with 6 floral segments. Flowers Oct-Dec.

**Fruits** The seed is an elongated oval shape and dust like. It is held in red-brown capsules 2-6mm long. Around 13 000 seeds per inflorescence can be produced with a very high viability (up to 100%).

### Distribution

A common wetland plant in the western parts of the Avon catchment with populations extending from Kalbarri to Esperance. Also occurs around most of Australia.

### Zone, habitat

Grows in any moist soil type on fresh to brackish waterways including creek banks, swamps, sand seeps and lake edges.

### Additional information

It is an excellent soil stabiliser and nutrient stripper for permanent and seasonal waterbodies due to its network of roots and dense foliage at the soil surface. It also has the ability to pump oxygen into the sediment, which assists with essential microbial activity. Commonly found throughout the Avon on sand seeps where there is limited grazing. Very waterlogging and slightly salt tolerant. It is best propagated by seed, which can be collected from Dec-Feb.