Baumea riparia
River twigrush

Inflorescence
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Plant features

Growth form  Perennial, spreading sedge with creeping rhizomes from which new stems arise. 0.3–1.6m high.

Leaves/stem  There are basal leaves which look similar to the stem. The stems are 4–10mm wide and flattened in cross section and up to 1.6m in length and have fine longitudinal lines. Stems are bright to dark green except for the base which is pale brown.

Flowers  The inflorescence is at the top of stems and 200–350mm long. Contains numerous spikelets 5–7mm long with each spikelet having 1 or more small flowers. Flowers brown. Aug–Oct.

Fruits  The nut is whitish to glossy orange yellow. It is 1mm wide by 2–4mm long.

Distribution

Scattered populations found on the western edge of the wheatbelt with its distribution spreading from Bullsbrook to Albany.

Zone, habitat

Occurs in fresh to brackish waterways including creek banks, swamps, floodways, seeps and lake edges. Prefers sandy soil.

Additional information

It is an excellent soil stabiliser and nutrient stripper for permanent watercourses due to its network of roots and dense foliage at the soil surface. It often forms dense colonies around still waterbodies and can be the dominant species. Can block shallow farm drains, so care should be taken with planting near these. Also has the ability to pump oxygen into the sediment, which assists with essential microbial activity. Very waterlogging tolerant and mildly salt tolerant. Can possibly be propagated by seed but usually by transplanting the creeping stems in winter.