

# Coastal Sword Sedge

Scientific name: *Lepidosperma gladiatum*

Aboriginal name: Kerbein (Noongar)



Plant habit



Flower



Base of leaf

## About ...

The Coastal Sword Sedge is also known as 'kerbein'. It was first described by French botanist Jacques Labillardière in the early 1800s, after he visited the south-west of Western Australia while on a voyage to explore Oceania. This plant also grows in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.

The strong leaves are ideal for weaving, making strong rope and string for many different purposes. The toughness of the leaves also helps to protect the plant from salt near coastal areas.

## Aboriginal Uses

- Leaves used to make rope and string for Mia Mia (shelter)
- The white base of the leaf is edible and can be eaten raw or roasted
- Plants in wetter areas are more succulent

<b>Family</b>	CYPERACEAE
<b>Climate</b>	Coastal, temperate
<b>Habitat</b>	Coastal sand dune areas, coastal woodlands and in tuart forests
<b>Form</b>	Clumping plant Height: up to 1.5 m Width: up to 1.5 m Sends out underground stems which form new plants
<b>Foliage</b>	Sword-like leaves approximately 25 mm wide Long, rigid stems Dark green and thicker at the centre Very tough
<b>Flower</b>	Kambarang to Bunuru (Spring to Summer) One or two brown flowers on spikelets among foliage Grow to about 8 mm
<b>Fruit</b>	Birak to Bunuru (January, February, March) Small oval nut about 3 mm long Pale-to-dark brown

Developed by SERCUL for use with the *Bush Tucker Education Program*.



Used as food



Used as medicine



Used as resources



Local to SW WA

**Caution:** Do not prepare bush tucker food without having been shown by Indigenous or experienced persons. Some bush tucker if eaten in large quantities or not prepared correctly can cause illness.

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ALGAE BUSTER



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