

Bulrush



Scientific name: *Typha domingensis*

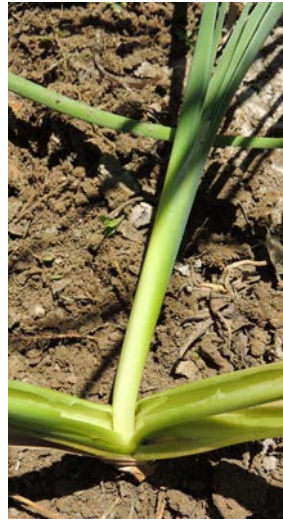
Aboriginal name: Yangeti (Noongar)



Plant habit



Flower (young and mature)



Base of stem



Root

About ...

Also known as 'Narrow Leaf Cumbungi'.

There are two species of Bulrush found in the Perth area, the native *Typha domingensis* and the introduced *Typha orientalis*.

Bulrush is a common native plant found in many healthy waterways. It captures silt and sediments, stabilises channels, provides habitat for native animals especially birds, is an important part of the instream food web and slows the flow rate of water reducing erosion. However, in waterways that have suffered impacts from settlement, the introduced *Typha orientalis* can become a serious weed. It thrives in shallow, poor-quality water with high nutrient and sediment loads.

Aboriginal Uses

- Roots are eaten after being treated by pounding the white rhizomes to remove the fibrous parts, then moulding the remaining paste and roasting into cakes that taste like asparagus
- Centre of the stem at the base is edible
- Young flowering spikes are eaten raw or cooked though the hard centre of the spike is inedible.

Family

TYPHACEAE

Climate

Temperate to tropical

Habitat

Permanent and ephemeral freshwater wetlands, creeks and rivers

Form

Large clumping plant
Height: 1 – 3 m

Foliage

Long, strap-like leaves
Length: up to 2 m
Width: up to 20 mm

Flower

Birak to Bunuru (Summer)
Separate male (upper) and female (lower) flowers on one spike
Female spike: 120 – 400 mm long; 20 mm diameter
Male spike: 150 – 350 mm long; 5 – 10 mm diameter
Light brown

Seed

Follows from flower
May produce up to 200 000 seeds
Small; fluffy
Dispersed by wind or water

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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South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare
www.sercul.org.au/our-projects/
bushucker/

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