Coastal Sword Sedae

Scientific name: Lepidosperma gladiatum

Aboriginal name: Kerbein (Noongar)







Plant habit

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.

Family CYPERACEAE

Flower

Climate Coastal, temperate

Habitat Coastal sand dune areas, coastal woodlands and in tuart forests

Form Clumping plant
Height: up to 1.5 m
Width: up to 1.5 m

Sends out underground stems which

form new plants

Foliage Sword-like leaves approximately 25 mm

wide

Long, rigid stems

Dark green and thicker at the centre

Very tough

Flower Kambarang to Bunuru (Spring to Summer)

One or two brown flowers on spikelets

among foliage

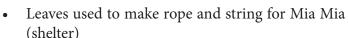
Grow to about 8 mm

Fruit Birak to Bunuru (January, February, March)

Small oval nut about 3 mm long

Pale-to-dark brown

Aboriginal Uses



 The white base of the leaf is edible and can be eaten raw or roasted

• Plants in wetter areas are more succulent

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











