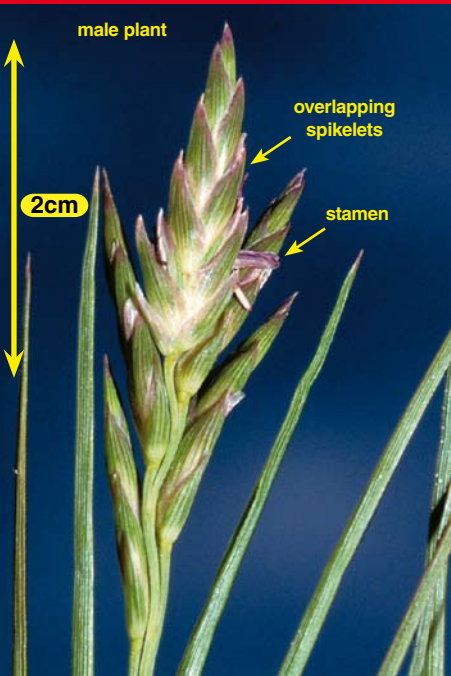


AUSTRALIAN SALTGRASS

Distichlis distichophylla

G2
GRASS



AUSTRALIAN SALTGRASS

Distichlis distichophylla

Sustainable
Grazing on
Saline Land



SALTdeck Series

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Alternative names: Gullibarkityallan, Emu Grass, Pineapple Grass.

G2

Family: Poaceae.

Description: Native dioecious (male and female flowers on different plants) perennial with robust spreading rhizomes and ascending leaves to about 20 cm tall. Flowerhead a compact spike of overlapping flattened spikelets (see photo). Flowers mostly spring through autumn.

Key features: Two rows of sharp stiff leaves on opposite sides of the same flat plane (see photo); leaves to 5 cm long. Spikelets flattened, 1–2 cm long. Non-flowering plants may be confused with the more common Marine Couch, *Sporobolus virginicus* (see photo).

Value: Lower nutritive value than the introduced NyPa *Distichlis spicata* cultivars because of its prickliness but no data available.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: High tolerance to saline soils and waterlogged conditions and has value in providing groundcover to prevent erosion in salt scalded areas.

Notes: Native to Australia and recorded in all States including WA where it is naturalised. Common on coastal dunes variably extending inland and growing on the edge of saline lakes. Seed production and viability is not known. Can be established by vegetative means.

References: *Flora of South Australia*, Jessop and Toelken (eds), Part 4, 4th edition 1986. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 2, 1994. *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 4, 1993. *Plants of Western NSW*, Cunningham et al., 1981.

