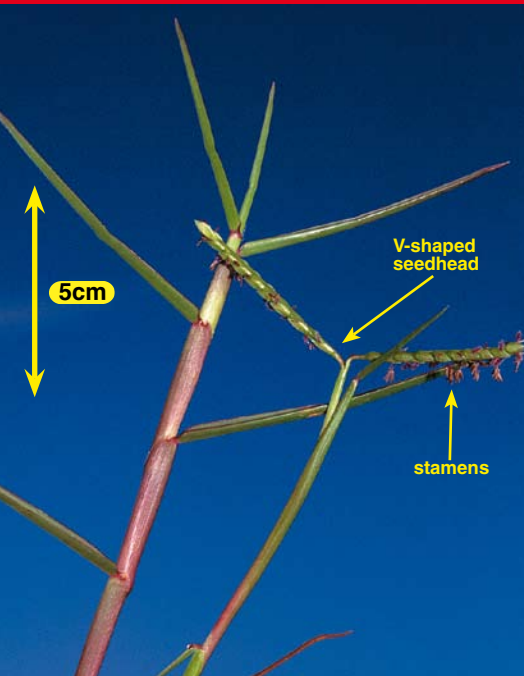


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SALTdeck Series

SALTWATER COUCH

Paspalum vaginatum

G14
GRASS



SALTWATER COUCH

Paspalum vaginatum



Alternative names: Salt Couch, Salt Couch Turf, Seashore Paspalum.

Family: Poaceae.

Description: Semi-aquatic stoloniferous and rhizomatous perennial that develops dense swards. Flowers on 2 or (rarely) more branched seedhead; flowers mostly late spring through to autumn.

Key features: A V-shaped seedhead (see photo) similar to Water Couch *Paspalum distichum* with which it is frequently confused. Distinguished from *Paspalum distichum* by the shiny, not hairy, glumes (hand lens needed to see this) and growth in very saline areas. *P. distichum* is not tolerant of highly saline conditions but nevertheless grows in quite salty places.

Value: Highly productive when grown with saline irrigation water overseas and used as a salt-tolerant turf. Little published information on nutritive value. Promoted in USA as tolerant of infertile soils.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: High tolerance to waterlogging and will grow on soils that are waterlogged and anaerobic throughout the year. Moderate to high tolerance to salinity and in coastal areas grows in the infrequently tidally inundated zone.

Notes: Native of most Australian States, Europe and the Americas.

References: *Saltland Pastures in Australia*, Barrett-Lennard, 2003. *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 4, 1993. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 2, 1994.

