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# Lomandra multiflora

*Lomandra multiflora* is an open to dense perennial tussock [10]. There are two subspecies: *L. multiflora* subsp. *dura* and *L. multiflora* subsp. *multiflora*.

*L. multiflora* subsp. *multiflora* has rigid, narrow greyish leaves 25-90 cm long [6, 10].

*L. multiflora* subsp. *dura* has flat strap like leaves to 40 cm tall [8].

Common names include Many-flowered Mat-rush [10, 13], Matrush [9] and Many-flowered Mat-lily [6].

## Natural Populations

*Lomandra multiflora* occurs in Qld, NSW, Vic and NT [11]. It is found chiefly in drier sites in woodlands and dry sclerophyll forests, on a variety of soils [6, 11, 12].

Population map:

[www.ala.org.au/explore/species-maps/](http://www.ala.org.au/explore/species-maps/)

## Flowering and Seeds

Plants are dioecious, i.e. male and female flowers are on separate plants [10]. The showy flowers have spiky white bracts as long or longer than flowers and occur in densely-clustered rings on branched or unbranched spikes 25-75 cm long. Male flowers are smaller, stalked and bell-shaped; female flowers are stalkless. Flowers occur from June to November [10]; sometimes into January for *L. multiflora* subsp. *multiflora* [6, 8, 11].

The fruit is a capsule that turns golden brown when ripe and the seed becomes hard and rice-like. To collect seed cut stems with secateurs and place upside down

in a large paper bag [4]. Use gloves to avoid spines [1]. Capsules open easier if still attached to the stems during seed extraction. Dry until capsules open then thresh lightly to extract seed. Sieve to clean [4].

To source seeds or plants:

[www.grassywoodlands.org.au](http://www.grassywoodlands.org.au)

## Cultivation and Uses

*L. multiflora* can be propagated readily from seed. Sow seed soon after collection. Germination takes 8-10 weeks [3].

In direct-seeding trials, *L. multiflora* yielded only 0.3% emergence of seed sown in the field with no treatment. Due to low seed availability and poor field viability this species is probably best grown from seed as tubestock or strategically hand direct-seeded.

*L. multiflora* can also be propagated by division of clumps [2, 8], best done during winter months [8].

*L. multiflora* is suitable for large or small garden rockeries [12], cottage gardens and planting in clusters under trees [10]. It needs well-drained soils, can be grown in semi-shade, and tolerates frost, drought and brief swampy periods [10, 12]. It is a useful species for stabilising banks [1].

*L. multiflora* is a fire retardant plant, ie. it does not ignite easily in a moderate intensity bush fire [12]. If burnt it resprouts from the base [9].

*L. multiflora* provides useful habitat for ground-dwelling fauna. The plants provide food for adult butterflies and their caterpillars [12]. Skinks and lizards are known to eat seeds [8].

Indigenous people used the nectar as a food, and the leaves for basket making [10].





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## References

- [1] Carr, D. (1997). *Plants in Your Pants: a pocket guide for the identification and use of the common plants of the northwest slopes*. Greening Australia NSW, Armidale.
- [2] Walker, K., Burrows, G., and McMahon, L. (2001). *Bidgee Bush, An identification guide to common native plants species of the South Western Slopes of New South Wales*. Greening Australia, South West Slopes.
- [3] Ralph, M. (1997). *Growing Australian Native Plants from Seed For Revegetation, Tree Planting and Direct Seeding*. Fitzroy, Victoria: Murray Ralph/Bushland Horticulture.
- [4] Ralph, M. (1993). *Seed Collection of Australian Native Plants For Revegetation, Tree Planting and Direct Seeding*. 2nd ed. Fitzroy, Victoria: Bushland Horticulture.
- [5] Cunningham, G.M., Mulham, W.E., Milthorpe, P.L. and Leigh, J.H. (1981). *Plants of Western New South Wales*. D. West: NSW Government Printing Office.
- [6] Stelling, F. (ed.) (1998). *South West Slopes Revegetation Guide*. Murray Catchment Management Committee, Albury, NSW.
- [7] Murphy R.G. and Dalton G.S. (1996). Understorey establishment research. *Technical Report No 249*. Primary Industries South Australia.
- [8] Bonney, N. (2003). *What Seed Is That? A field guide to the identification, collection and germination of native seed in South Australia*. Tantanoola, SA: Neville Bonney.

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## Internet links

- [9] The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust: [http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/science/Evolutionary\\_Ecology\\_Research/Ecology\\_of\\_Cumberland\\_Plain\\_Woodland/woodland\\_plants/lomandra\\_multiflora](http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/science/Evolutionary_Ecology_Research/Ecology_of_Cumberland_Plain_Woodland/woodland_plants/lomandra_multiflora)
- [10] Yarra Ranges website: [http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Residents/Yarra\\_Ranges\\_Plant\\_Directory/Lower\\_Storey/Grasses\\_Rushes\\_and\\_Sedges/Lomandra\\_multiflora\\_ssp\\_\\_multiflora](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Residents/Yarra_Ranges_Plant_Directory/Lower_Storey/Grasses_Rushes_and_Sedges/Lomandra_multiflora_ssp__multiflora)
- [11] PlantNET National Herbarium of New South Wales: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=in&name=Lomandra~multiflora+subsp.~multiflora>
- [12] Queensland Greening Australia Nursery website: [http://www.qld.greeningaustralia.org.au/gaqotsasp/07\\_plant\\_search/features.asp?SpeciesName=Lomandra%20multiflora](http://www.qld.greeningaustralia.org.au/gaqotsasp/07_plant_search/features.asp?SpeciesName=Lomandra%20multiflora)
- [13] Australian National Botanic Gardens & Australian National Herbarium, Harden Species List: <http://www.anbg.gov.au/greening-grainbelt/harden-species-list.xls>