

***Ruppia juncea***
**Bare reigrass**  
**(Cyperaceae)**
**LEAVES**

Bare reigrass has smooth, cylindrical, blue-green stems which are 1-3 mm in diameter. The leaves are very small and are reduced to a sheath enclosing the stem with only a flat or folded blade 2-10 mm long.


**FLOWERS**

The spike-like inflorescence is 10-60 mm long with small brown spikelets 3-5 mm long, each containing one or more small flowers. Each flower has a small bract but lacks floral segments.

**FRUIT**

The fruits are tiny 3-ribbed nuts, one maturing in each spikelet.

**FLOWERING TIME**

Flowers spring and summer.

**GROWTH FORM AND HABITAT**

A widespread sedge 0.5-1.2 m tall with creeping underground stems, often forming extensive colonies along watercourses, estuaries and swamps throughout the south-west of the State. Bare reigrass may be found in seasonally waterlogged to partially inundated areas which have fresh to brackish or seasonally saline water. It prefers a fairly constant water level but will tolerate seasonal fluctuations up to half a metre. Bare reigrass is distributed along the coast from Dongara to the Recherche Archipelago, but also occurs in South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Tasmania, New Zealand and New Caledonia.

**PROPAGATION**

Bare reigrass can be propagated from seed using *in-vitro* culture of seed embryos. It is readily established through rhizome transplantation. Sections of rhizome approximately 100 mm long with a good root mass and healthy leaves can be planted half a metre apart. Plant rhizomes in winter and spring at a depth of 100-200 mm in sandy sediments. Do not trim leaves.