

Cyperaceae
Carex appressa
Tall Sedge



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ETYMOLOGY

(CAR-ex) Name is Latin for sedge, or Greek to cut; The species appressus Latin for laying flat, closely pressed refers to leaves to stems.

LIFEFORM

Sedge 50 cm-2 m

STATUS

All states except NT; Widespread SE Qld; in damp places with high moisture levels.

OCCURS

Sunshine Coast Qld, Warriewood Wetlands NSW, Tas, Vic, WA, SA (NG, NZ New Caledonia)

QLD DISTRICTS

Burke, Cook, Darling Downs, Leichhardt, Maranoa, Moreton, North Kennedy, Wide Bay

HABITAT

Swamps, Creek banks, Damp open forest

LEAVES

Basal, 40-120cm x 2-4 mm, linear, margins scabrous & ligulate with thickened truncate base, dark yellow-brown.

FLOWERS

Panicle >12 cm, yellow-brown to straw-green, (male and female intermixed about 4-45 mm long) raspy thick triangle flower spike; Flowers appressed to upper part of stem.

Flowering times Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec

FRUIT

Nuts, 1.6-2.4 mm, ovoid, enclosed by a chaffy, sack-like utricle 5 mm, tapering into a fine tip; lenticular in cross section, dark yellow-brown, beaked utricle; Heads yellow seeds ripen, often retained on the plant; **Fruiting times** Oct, Nov

ROOTS

Rhizomatous, short; shoots densely tufted.

STEM

Monoecious, tufted perennial, sedge with acutely 3 angled stems, hard finely scabrous on the edges towards the top; forms clumps covers fairly large areas near shady streams and swamps.

LANDSCAPE USES

Attractive tufting ornamental, useful near waterbodies, ideal for pool areas, around ponds, dams and water features. For erosion stabilisation; cultivated for wetland restoration projects

TOLERANCE

Frost tolerant -7 °C and drought tolerant

BUTTERFLY

Hesperilla crypsigramma Small Dingy Skipper, *Oreisplanus munionga*, *Hesperilla ornata* Spotted Sedge-skipper, *Heteronympha cordace* Alpine Skipper *Telicota eurychlora* Southern Sedge Dart, *Heteronympha merope merope* Common Brown, Bright-eyed Brown

ABORIGINAL USES

Leaves were used to make baskets

COMMENTS

Understory plant which forms large tussocks as habitat for ground dwelling fauna. Propagation seeds & divisions of large plants which grow at a medium to fast rate.

