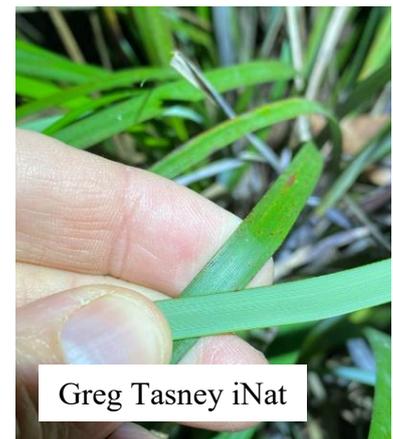
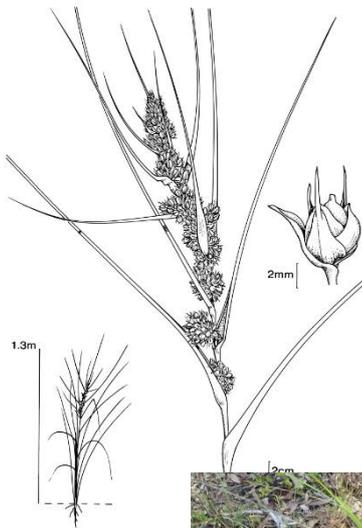


**Cyperaceae**  
***Gahnia aspera***  
 sword-sedge

**Ann Moran**  
 Field Botanist



**ETYMOLOGY**

(GAHN-ee-a) after Swedish Botanist Dr Henry Gahn & Friend of Linnaeus; The species aspera (AS-per) rough or uneven.

**LIFEFORM**

Sedge 40-80cm x 1m Spread

**OCCURS**

Stanthorpe, Qld, NSW (NG, Malesia, Polynesia)

**QLD DISTRICTS**

Burke, Burnett, Cook, Darling Downs, Leichhardt, Maranoa, Moreton, North/South Kennedy, Port Curtis, Warrego, Wide Bay

**HABITAT**

Rainforest, Open forest, Creekside

**LEAVES**

Basal, 80 cm, flattened, rough underside, yellow to light green with sharp, recurved.

**FLOWERS**

Erect 10-25 cm, rigid dense, empty glumes present above fertile on 3-8 mm solid stems.

**Flowering Times** Sept, Oct

**FRUIT**

Nuts, 5-6 mm, shiny hard exocarp, seeds smooth dark red-brown often suspended by a thread from the glumes with small pointed end; **Fruiting Times** Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March

**ROOTS**

Woody rhizomes

**STEM**

Tufted plant with solid erect stems; Attractive hardy red seeds.

**LANDSCAPE USES**

Can be planted under powerline; Ornamental potential usage in landscaping, rockery plant foliage and flower stems used are attractive in dried floral arrangements and cut commercially.

**INSECTS**

*Telicota ancilla* Greenish Darter

**BIRD**

Seeds eaten by Pied Currawong, Crimson Rosella, Wonga Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-dove,

**BUTTERFLY**

*Hesperilla donnysa* Donnysa Skipper, *Tisphone abeona rawnsleyi* Sword Grass Brown  
*Hesperilla ornata* Spotted Sedge-skipper, *Hesperilla malindeva* Two-spotted Skipper

**INDIGENOUS USES**

Seeds used for decoration, Edible ground seeds ground to make flour

**ID FEATURES**

Leaves sharp rough + Flowers spikelet 1-flowered + Nut, broad-ovoid to globose, dark red-brown, shining.