

Poaceae

Poa labillardieri

tussock grass



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ETYMOLOGY

(PO-a) Greek poa = grass; The species labillardieri (lah-bil-lar-dee-AIR-ee-i) After Jacques Julien Houtou de Labillardiere 1755-1834 French botanist; He visited WA & Tas with the D'Entrecasteaux expedition & named many new plants.

LIFEFORM

Grass 30-120cm

STATUS

Widespread in SE Australia Common per site (population size) Moreton Wide Bay, and eastern Darling Downs districts SE Qld; Longevity: indefinite

OCCURS

Green Park Qld, Bathurst, NSW, Vic, SA, Tas

QLD DISTRICTS

Darling Downs, Moreton, North/South Kennedy, Wide Bay

HABITAT

River flats, Creeks, Gullies. Grows at higher elevations >400m not on the coastal lowlands.

LEAVES

Blades, 80 x 3.5 cm, green-grey basal sheath open down one side, which wrapped around stem; flat, typically at least half the length of the culms; sheath usually not pigmented.

FLOWERS

Terminal, 25 cm, spikelets greenish or purplish 3-4 flowered.

Flowering times Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb

FRUIT

Grains dry containing one cream 3 mm seed; Dry, 1-seeded, indehiscent fruit

Fruiting times March, April, Nov, Dec, Jan

ROOTS

Rhizomes

STEM

Coarse, densely caespitose perennial grass

ETHNOBOTANY

Fodder for cattle, sheep Total germination approx. 39 days typical rate 787 per gram of seed, flowering within 10months (Kubiak P);

TOLERANCE

Cool, Moist Areas

WILDLIFE

Good habitat for skinks and lizards seed eaten by birds ants and insects; Grazed by Kangaroos; Birds use leaves as nesting material;

BIRD

Zebra Finch

BUTTERFLY

Anisynta tilyardi Chequered Grass-skipper, *Geitoneura kulgii*, *Heteronympha solandri* Solander's Brown, *Pasma tasmanica*, *Taractrocera papyria* White-banded Grass Dart, *Toxidia peron* Ringy Grass-skipper *Toxidia rietmanni* White-brand Grass-skipper

INDIGENOUS USES

Used leaves for weaving baskets and bags.

ID FEATURE

Leaves slightly serrated, long thin grey green, scabrous rough when touched.