

Salsola species

COAST ROLY-POLY

Flowering period: Possibly August–February.

Description: An erect annual herb. Stems tough, somewhat fleshy to 60 cm high and with spiny leaves particularly when the plant dies. Leaves rounded, tough and fleshy, 10–30 mm long, 2–3 mm wide and fusing with the stem. Flowers in a loose spike.

Pollination: Not certain for the Perth region.

Distribution: Widespread in coastal Western Australia with the species found in disturbed sites along the Perth coastline in dunes or adjacent to limestone areas and on offshore islands. A characteristic of the species is the way in which the plant dies, dries and snaps off in a spherical shape enabling the species to be blown along by the wind. This ability is a highly effective means for dispersal of the seeds sometimes for considerable distances.

Propagation: Readily and easily propagated from seed.

Uses in restoration: Not often utilised, but possibly useful for stabilisation of foredunes.

Notes: Previously considered to be an introduced species and often removed as a weedy species. Current research indicates that this is a native species that is common in coastal areas of Australia. Further studies are required to determine the correct name for this species.



Habit



Flowers



Branches



Distribution