

**\**Ammophila arenaria*****MARRAM GRASS**

(L.) Link

**Flowering period:** October–January.

**Description:** Much branching, rhizomatous perennial grass, 40–70 cm high with 60 cm long, sharp-pointed leaves. The leaf blade has the ability to inroll to form a cylinder, a process that protects the leaf from desiccation during periods of drought. Flowers greenish in dense cylindrical spikes up to 1.2 m high. The plant produces extensive networks of rhizomes able to extend for up to 2 m to produce daughter plants.

**Pollination:** Wind pollinated.

**Distribution:** Widespread in coastal dune areas from Perth to Esperance where the species was introduced to stabilise sand dunes. In some areas the plant has now colonised considerable tracts often at the exclusion of native species. Generally thought to be seed sterile; however, the species has been noted as recruiting from seed in the Perth region.

**Propagation:** Weed species – not advisable to propagate.

**Uses in restoration:** Was used in the past to stabilise dunes; however, the plant has the ability to grow rapidly through accreting sand, leading to further accretion and burial of slower growing native species. As an alternative, plant *Spinifex hirsutus* (in exposed foredune and primary dunes) and *S. longifolius* (in primary and secondary dunes).

**Control:** May respond to glyphosate; however, test effectiveness with spot spraying. Direct removal is possible; however, the deeply buried nature of rhizome may lead to rapid resprouting and spreading of the plant.

**Notes:** A species that is difficult to control due to the highly invasive rhizomes and ability of the species to produce abundant daughter plants. If herbicide control is used ensure that suitable native species have been propagated to stabilise the dune.



Habit



Flowers



Habit



Distribution