

*Conostylis setigera*

## BRISTLY COTTONHEAD

R.Br.

**Flowering period:** August–November.**Description:** Tufted, grass-like, rhizomatous perennial to 30 cm high with leaves 15–20 cm long, green and possessing distinctive rigid, almost spine-like hairs along the margin. Flowers in globular heads atop 30 cm long stems. Plants resprout from the underground rhizome following fire. Seeds mature in December and are small, brown with a rough surface, with 30–50 per capsule. Seed capsules may be parasitised by seed predators resulting in reduced seed set.**Pollination:** Likely to be open pollinated by a variety of small insect species.**Distribution:** From Dongara to Augusta, favouring more stable open heathland sites in secondary dunes.**Propagation:** Readily propagated from seed that has been smoke treated or sown into seedling trays subsequently treated with aerosol smoke. Prick out seedlings when 3–5 cm tall and grow on in pots till required for winter planting.**Uses in restoration:** A useful sand-binding species that can be grown in sites that are wind protected; however, ensure plants are of a reasonable size prior to transplanting as the species can become quickly over-run by weeds and other plantings.**Notes:** A useful species to complement biodiversity enrichment in coastal dune restoration. Ensure that only locally collected seed is utilised as the species is likely to exhibit local genetic provenance issues based on preliminary DNA fingerprinting evidence. A useful species for the home garden requiring free-draining soils and full sun to partial shade. May be susceptible to haemodorum rust fungus disease under humid conditions.

E.P. Toiv

Habit



R. Barrett

Flowers



Distribution