

Lepidosperma sp. Coastal Dunes DUNE SWORD-SEDGE

Flowering period: March–July.

Description: Rhizomatous tufted perennial to 45 cm tall with stems to 3 mm broad and flattened with fine margins. Leaves reduced, basal, half the length of the stems. Flowers in brown to black dense terminal clusters that are conical to cylindrical in shape, 2–6 cm long, 1–3 cm wide, followed by seeds that are conspicuous, somewhat globular, mixed with seeds that persist in the flower head yet appear unviable.

Pollination: Wind pollinated.

Distribution: Widespread between Dongara and Bunbury with plants favouring secondary dunes in the coastal region often forming dense, long-lived clumps that have the capacity for clonal extension with rhizome extensions up to 10 cm or more.

Propagation: By rhizome division of mother plants maintained in pots. Divide plants into segments comprising at least two years' growth (located by counting back from the lead shoot) and re-pot into pots ready for direct transplanting. Rhizome division is the only reliable and effective method for propagating *Lepidosperma* species as seed has been shown to be highly dormant. Seed in the native soil seed bank responds to applications of smoke product or physical disturbance of the soil.

Uses in restoration: A useful species in restoration programs as the plants have high survival rates, are resistant to wind and salt, and form dense root mats capable of binding the soil.

Notes: An attractive and useful landscape species that has been used most effectively to landscape the WA Ecology Centre in Bold Park where the plants survive in an unwatered garden mixed with other 'grassy' species such as *Conostylis candicans* and *Lepidosperma gladiatum*. Can cope with full sun to partial shade and will form extensive clumps under moist conditions.



Habit



Branches



Flowers



Distribution