Common Wetland Species of the Bellinger Valley



mangroves & swamp-oak forest



floodplain swamp

**Paspalum urvillei *Paspalum wettsteinii Broad-leaved paspalum Smartweed Rough Smartweed Sparganium subglobosum Floating Bur-reed Schoenoplectus mucronata A water sedge Water Primrose A River Sedge Water-milfoil Ribbonweed A spike rush Frogsmouth A tali rush Water Lily A sedge A rush Schoenoplectus validus Eleocharis sphacelata Eleocharis equisetina *Nymphaea capensis Persicaria hydropiper Ludwigia peploides Persicaria strigosa Vallisneria gigantia Cyperus exaltatus Myriophyllum sp. Juncus usitatus Strong Con

farm dam

freshwater river

MANAGEMENT OF NATIVE VEGETATION IN WETLANDS.

General

Wetland Plant Requirements

Each wetland species has its own special requirements as regards water depth, period of inundation, salinity and the soil and water chemistry, all of which can change very quickly with slight changes along a gradient.

Drainage

Changes to the drainage and soil structure can have quite dramatic effects on the native plant species. Drainage changes can completely alter the kind of wetland—its depth, its period of inundation, and the soil and water chemistry—and this changes the plant species that can survive.

Fencing

Provided they do not have serious weed invasion, most kinds of coastal wetlands (even those altered by drainage) can respond very well just to the fencing out of stock. This reduces adverse impacts on the soil surface and drainage, and on the condition and natural regeneration of native vegetation.

Planting

Because of the precise requirements of wetland species, planting of wetland species demands accurate species selection. Since in most cases nature will be better at this than you, planting is more often than not unnecessary. In most situations a *wait-and-see* approach is advisable.

Weeds

In several types of wetland there are few serious invasive weeds. Most of the weeds that require control occur on those portions of the wetland that are slightly higher.

Wetland Types

Salt marsh

Can be slow to recover after fencing, but usually native plant colonisation will occur unassisted. Weeds that may require control include Sharp Rush (*Juncus acutus*) and, particularly on slightly higher ground, Buffalo Grass and Groundsel Bush.

Mangroves

Mangroves usually respond well to the fencing out of stock. They regenerate naturally and weeds are not a problem. If need be Grey Mangroves can be planted directly as seed into intertidal mud.

Swamp Oak Forest

They usually respond well to fencing and regenerate naturally if seed bearing adult trees are present. Weeds that may require control include Groundsel Bush, Lantana, & Five-leaved Morning Glory, some exotic grasses

Swamp Paperbark Forest

Although more varied than Swamp Oak Forest, both in their structure and in their responses, they still respond well to fencing. Weeds include Lantana, Groundsel Bush, Wandering Jew, & Five-leaved Morning Glory

Floodplain Backswamp Sedgelands

Native sedges, rushes and ferns usually recover well when fenced. Weeds usually only occur on the edges, and include Groundsel Bush & Giant Paspalum,

Farm Dams

Farm dams attract their own specific suite of wetland species. Blue Water Lily is a very common exotic species in farm dams. Spread by waterfowl, it is difficult to eradicate and exclude. Most other species are native. Although natural colonisation will usually take place, especially if water levels are stable, farm dam species can be introduced by translocating some plants or soil from other healthy farm dams. However, be wary of introducing exotic pond species to farm dams. They may have serious weed potential in the dam itself and downstream.

Common Wetland Species of the Bellinger Valley by Wetland Type

Seagrasses

Herbs

Zostera capricornia

Eelgrass

River mangrove

Grey mangrove

Mangrove Community

Trees

Salt Marsh

Herbs

Shrubs

Twiners

Swamp Oak Forest

Epiphytes

Herbs

Mistletoes

Shrubs

Trees

Vines

Floodplain Swamps

Herbs

Aegiceras corniculatum Avicennia marina

Baumea juncea Isolepis nodosa Juncus kraussii Sarcocornia quinqueflora Sporobolus virginicus Zoysia macrantha

Suadea australis

Cynanchum carnosum

Dendrobium teretifolium Platycerium bifurcatum Pyrrosia rupestris

Baumea juncea Crinum pedunculatum Einadia hastata Phragmites australis Tetragonia tetragonoides

Amyema cambagei

Myoporum acuminatum

Casuarina glauca

*Baccharis halimifolia *Ipomoea cairica Parsonsia straminea

Azolla pinnata Baumea rubiginosa Blechnum indicum Carex appressa Carex maculata Centella asiatica Cotula coronopifolia Jointed twigrush Knobby club-rush Sea rush Beaded glasswort Marine couch Prickly couch

Shrubby glasswort

Saltmarsh twiner

Swamp rat's tail orchid Elkhorn Rock felt fern

Jointed twigrush Swamp lily Berry saltbush Common reed Botany Bay greens

Casuarina mistletoe

Mangrove boobialla

Swamp oak

Groundsel bush Five leaf morning glory Common silkpod

Duckweed Rufous twig rush Swamp water fern Cutty sedge A native sedge Pennywort Waterbuttons Shrubs

Trees

Vines

Farm Dams

Herbs

Rivers (in stream) Herbs

Cyperus polystachyos Eleocharis equisetina Gahnia sieberiana Juncus polyanthemus Juncus prismatocarpus Juncus usitatus Lepironia articulata Otelia ovalifolia Paspalum distichum Persicaria hydropiper Persicaria strigosa Philydrum lanuginosum Phragmites australis Triglochin procerum Typha orientalis Villarsia exaltata *Nymphaea capensis *Paspalum urvillei *Paspalum wettsteinii

Melastoma affine Viminaria juncea

Callistemon saligna Eucalyptus robusta Lophostemon suaveolens Melaleuca linariifolia Melaleuca quinquenervia Melaleuca sypheloides

Parsonsia straminea

*Nymphaea capensis *Paspalum urvillei *Paspalum wettsteinii Eleocharis equisetina Eleocharis sphacelata Juncus usitatus Ludwigia peploides Persicaria hydropiper Persicaria strigosa Philydrum lanuginosum Schoenoplectus mucronata Sparganium subglobosum Typha orientalis

Carex longebrachiata Cyperus exaltatus Myriophyllum sp. Schoenoplectus validus Vallisneria gigantia

*Non native species

Bunchy flatsedge A spike rush Saw-sedge A rush A rush A rush Tall lagoon sedge Swamp lily Water couch Smartweed Rough smartweed Frogsmouth Common reed Water ribbons Broad-leaved cumbungi Erect marsh flower Cape waterlily Giant paspalum Broad-leaved paspalum

Melastoma Native broom

White bottle brush
Swamp mahogany
Swamp turpentine
Snow in summer
Paperbark
Prickly paperbark

Common silkpod

Cape waterlily Giant paspalum Broad-leaved paspalum A spike rush A tall rush Common rush Water primrose Smartweed Rough smartweed Frogsmouth A water sedge Floating bur-reed Broad-leaved cumbungi

Tussock (Cutty Grass) A sedge Water-milfoil A River Sedge Ribbonweed

Common Wetland Species of the Bellinger Valley by Family

FLOWERING PLANTS

Crinum pedunculatum

MONOCOTYLEDONS (grasses, sedges, rushes, reeds, etc)

AMARYLLIDACEAE Onion Family

CYPERACEAE Sedge Family

HYDROCHARITACEAE Water Ribbons Family

JUNCACEAE Rush Family

JUNCAGINACEAE

ORCHIDACEAE Orchid Family

PHYLIDRACEAE

POACEAE Grass Family

SPARGANIACEAE

TYPHACEAE Bull Rush Family Baumea juncea Baumea rubiginosa Carex appressa Carex longebrachiata Carex maculata Cyperus exaltatus Cyperus polystachyos Eleocharis equisetina Eleocharis sphacelata Gahnia sieberiana Isolepis nodosa Lepironia articulata Schoenoplectus mucronata Schoenoplectus validus

Otelia ovalifolia Vallisneria gigantia

Juncus kraussii Juncus polyanthemus Juncus prismatocarpus Juncus usitatus

Triglochin procerum

Dendrobium teretifolium

Philydrum lanuginosum

Paspalum distichum Phragmites australis Sporobolus virginicus Zoysia macrantha *Paspalum urvillei *Paspalum wettsteinii

Sparganium subglobosum

Typha domingensis Typha orientalis Rufous Twig rush Cutty sedge Tussock (Cutty Grass) A native sedge A sedge Bunchy flatsedge A spike rush A tall rush Saw-sedge Knobby club-rush Tall lagoon sedge A water sedge A River Sedge

Swamp lily

Jointed twigrush

Swamp Lily Ribbonweed

Sea rush A rush A rush Common rush

Water ribbons

Swamp rat's tail orchid

Frogsmouth

Water couch Common reed Marine couch Prickly couch Giant paspalum Broad-leaved paspalum

Floating Bur-reed

Narrowleaved cumbungi Broad-leaved cumbungi **ZOSTERACEAE** Eelgrass Family Zostera capricorni

Eelgrass

DICOTYLEDONS

AIZOACEAE

APIACEAE Umbelliferous Family

APOCYNACEAE Dogbane Family

ASCLEPIADACEAE

ASTERACEAE Daisy Family

CASUARINACEAE Casuarina Family

CHENOPODIACEAE Beet Family

CONVOLVULACEAE Convolvulus Family

FABACEAE Pea Family

HALORAGACEAE Milfoil Family

LORANTHACEAE Mistletoe Family

MELASTOMACEAE Tibouchina Family

MENYANTHACEAE

MYOPORACEAE

MYRSINACEAE Nutmeg Family

MYRTACEAE Myrtle Family Tetragonia tetragonoides

Centella asiatica

Parsonsia straminea

Cynanchum carnosum

*Baccharis halimifolia Cotula coronopifolia

Casuarina glauca

Einadia hastata Sarcocornia quinqueflora Suadea australis

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Viminaria juncea

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Amyema cambagei

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Villarsia exaltata

Myoporum acuminatum

Aegiceras corniculatum

Callistemon saligna Eucalyptus robusta Lophostemon suaveolens Melaleuca linariifolia Melaleuca quinquenervia Melaleuca sypheloides Saltmarsh twiner

Common silkpod

Botany Bay greens

Pennywort

Groundsel Bush Waterbuttons

Swamp oak

Berry saltbush Beaded glasswort Shrubby glasswort

Five leaf morning glory

Native Broom

Water-milfoil

Casuarina mistletoe

Melastoma

Erect Marsh Flower

Mangrove boobialla

River mangrove

White bottle brush Swamp mahogany Swamp turpentine Snow in summer Paperbark Prickly paperbark

NYMPHAEACEAE

ONAGRACEAE

POLYGONACEAE Dock Family

VERBENACEAE Verbena Family *Nymphaea capensis

Ludwigia peploides

Persicaria hydropiper Persicaria strigosa

Avicennia marina

Water Lily

Water primrose

Smartweed Rough smartweed

Grey mangrove

Duckweed

Elkhorn

Rock felt fern

Swamp water fern

FERNS

AZOLLACEAE BLECHNACEAE

POLYPODIACEAE

Azolla pinnata

Blechnum indicum

Platycerium bifurcatum Pyrrosia rupestris

*Non native species

This leaflet has been produced by R. Macleay as part of the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority's Biodiversity Conservation & Enhancement Project with the support of Bellinger Landcare.





