

# COASTAL GRASSLAND

The Norfolk Island Vegetation Mapping Project has described and mapped 14 distinct native plant communities on Norfolk Island. This series of fact sheets presents information about each of the communities.

## Coastal Grassland

**Thick, salt tolerant grasses and sedges growing in sandy coastal areas.**

Salt couch (*Sporobolus virginicus*) dominates many exposed coastal sites on sea cliffs.

Other species include pigface (*Carpobrotus glaucescens*), native spinach (*Tetragonia*

*tetragonioides*), chaff flower (*Achyranthes aspera*), yellow daisy (*Senecio australis*) and club rush (*Ficinia nodosa*).



Coastal Grassland at Hundred Acres Reserve. Photo: Kevin Mills

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Plant community	Key species	Other species	Threatened species
Coastal Grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salt couch (<i>Sporobolus virginicus</i>)</li> <li>• Pigface (<i>Carpobrotus glaucescens</i>)</li> <li>• Chaff flower, coastal achyranthes (<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal senecio/ yellow daisy (<i>Senecio australis</i>)</li> <li>• Native lobelia (<i>Lobelia anceps</i>)</li> <li>• Brookweed (<i>Samolus repens</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal senecio/ yellow daisy (<i>Senecio australis</i>)</li> </ul>

## Indicative species composition

The table above identifies the key species present (those species that are most characteristic of the plant community), other species (additional species that are likely to be present and assist in defining the community), and some of the threatened species present.

## Further information

These fact sheets are based on the Norfolk Island Vegetation Mapping Project conducted by the Invasive Species Council between 2018 and 2020. Naomi Christian and Dr Kevin Mills conducted the vegetation surveys, and described and mapped the native plant communities. Two maps were produced – one showing the estimated distribution of native plant communities in 1750, and one showing their distribution in 2020.

### The plant community maps are available at:

- [www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/services/waste-and-environment/native-vegetation/native-vegetation-mapping-project](http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/services/waste-and-environment/native-vegetation/native-vegetation-mapping-project)
- [www.invasives.org.au/niveg](http://www.invasives.org.au/niveg)

**There are 180 native plant species on the Norfolk Island Group, of which around 25% are endemic.**

**Forty-six species have been identified as threatened with**

**extinction.** Describing and mapping the 14 native plant communities was done to help land managers protect and restore habitat for these threatened species and other wildlife of Norfolk Island.

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