

MOO-OO SEDGELAND

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.

Moo-oo Sedgeland

Common on Phillip Island and the northern islets off Norfolk Island. Also present on the hot, exposed northern coastal slopes of Norfolk Island.

This is a sedgeland dominated by Moo-oo (*Cyperus lucidus*), which grows very densely, almost to the exclusion of other plants. This community covered large parts of Phillip island, as described by Phillip Gidley King.

Moo-oo is a robust perennial sedge. The stems are solid, triangular in cross-section and grow to 1.3m. The leaves, which all grow from the base of the stem to about 1m in length, are thick and glossy. The flowers, which individually are inconspicuous, form an attractive umbrella-like head which is bright red when young, turning red-brown as it matures. The fruit is a small, dark, angular nut.



Moo-oo Sedgeland on Phillip Island. Photo: Kevin Mills

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Plant community	Key species	Other species	Threatened species
Moo-oo Sedgeland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moo-oo (<i>Cyperus lucidus</i>) Chaff flower, coastal achyranthes (<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>) Pigface (<i>Carpobrotus glaucescens</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flax (<i>Phormium tenax</i>) Scurvy weed (<i>Commelina cyania</i>) 	

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
- 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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