

ARCADIA COASTCARE (www.arcadiacoastcare.com.au)

Grasses Identification Workshop

We were very fortunate to have the opportunity to have a Grasses Identification Workshop with Nanette Hooker on the 25th February 2021. Nanette is the Herbarium Curator at JCU and is an expert on grasses, particularly in the Townsville region. She has written several publications which can be downloaded for free including *Grasses of Townsville* (2016) which identifies over 220 different native and non-native grasses in this area.

All invitees to the workshop were given the opportunity to bring grass samples for Nanette to identify. Many of us erroneously brought sedges, not understanding the distinction but where possible, Nanette also identified sedges. We learnt the importance of looking at the whole plant to achieve correct identification that is, leaves, flowers and seeds. Some samples had flowers that were immature and others were not in seed so identification was not possible.

Grasses and sedges have small flowers, called spikelets and they have very complex inflorescences making them difficult to identify casually. Plants that are *Cyperus* sedges are common in the wet season. There are 55 species of this genus in Townsville, including Magnetic Island; 7 species are non-natives. Often the species are very similar to other species.

Nanette was pleasantly surprised by the attendance at the workshop and the level of interest shown in grasses which Nanette thinks are more significant to our environment than most people are aware. When asked if there is one grass she would recommend for island gardens, Nanette suggested *Cymbopogon bombycinus* and *C. ambiguus*. These are native to the island and are distinguished for their aroma when crushed.

We hope that the workshop and this document will assist you to identify native grasses in your garden and nurture their growth.

Nanette is happy to assist with any questions: nanette.hooker@jcu.edu.au

The following pages show photographs taken of the samples with a brief description beside the photos. Additional information on these grasses and sedges can be found online and in the following websites or publications:

Grasses in Townsville (2016) by Nanette Hooker (downloadable on line)
<https://researchonline.jcu.edu.au/44143/>

Plants of Magnetic Island, 3rd Edition (2010) by Betsy R. Jackes (at Mary Who bookshop in town or downloadable on line)
<https://researchonline.jcu.edu.au/18043/>

Some Magnetic Island Plants by the late Donald Simpson (online)
<https://www.somemagneticislandplants.com.au/>

List of grasses and sedges identified.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Sedge or Grass	Native or Weed
Abildgaardia vaginata		Sedge	Native
Aristida queenslandica	Queensland wiregrass	Grass	Native
Bulbostylis barbata		Sedge	Native
Cyperus enervis		Sedge	Native
Cyperus gracilis	Slender flat-sedge	Sedge	Native
Cyperus perangustus		Sedge	Native
Eragrostis brownii	Brown's Lovegrass	Grass	Native
Eragrostis spartinoides		Grass	Native
Fimbristylis dichotoma	Common Fringe Sedge	Sedge	Native
Mnesithea rottboellioides	Northern Cane Grass	Grass	Native
Scleria mackaviensis	Tufted scleria sedge	Sedge	Native
Scleria sphacelata (female)	Razor grass	Grass	Native
Scleria sphacelata (male)	Razor grass	Grass	Native
Thuarea involuta	Bird's Beach Grass	Grass	Native
Triodia stenostachya	Porcupine Grass	Grass	Native
Axonopus compressus	Buffalo Grass, Blanket Grass	Grass	Weed
Bothriochloa pertusa	Indian bluegrass	Grass	Weed
Cyperus kyllingia	Kyllingia weed	Sedge	Weed
Echinochloa colona	Awnless Barnyard Grass	Grass	Weed
Eleusine indica	Crowsfoot Grass	Grass	Weed
Eragrostis mexicana	Mexican Lovegrass	Grass	Weed
Eragrostis tenella	Delicate Lovegrass	Grass	Weed
Megathyrsus maximus	Guinea Grass	Grass	Weed
Melinis repens	Red Natal Grass	Grass	Weed
Sporobolus jacquemontii	Rats Tail Grass	Grass	Weed
Urochloa mosambicensis	Sabi Grass	Grass	Weed
Urochloa subquadrifida	Green Summer Grass	Grass	Weed

NATIVES

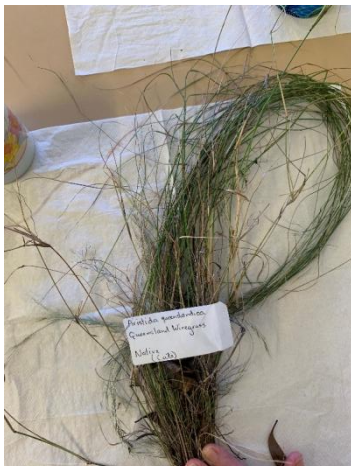


Abildgaardia vaginata (formerly Fimbristylis brownii)

Family: Sedge

Status: Native

Collected by: Selina



Aristida queenslandica

Common Name: Queensland wiregrass

Family: Grass

Status: Native

Collected by: Cate

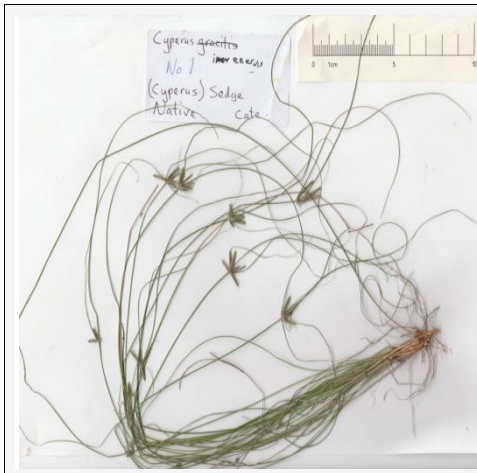


Bulbostylis barbata

Family: Sedge

Status: Native

Collected by: Annie, Ian



Cyperus enervis

Family: Sedge

Status: Native

Collected by: Selina, Cate



Cyperus perangustus

Family: Sedge

Status: Native

Collected by: Gary, Selina and Ian



Cyperus gracilis

Common name: Slender flat-sedge

Family: Sedge

Status: Native

Collected by: Selina, Cate

Note: New seedlings growing from the spikelets



Eragrostis brownii

Common name: Brown's Lovegrass

Family: Grass

Status: Native

Collected by: Gethin & Jenny



Eragrostis spartinooides

Common name:

Family: Grass

Status: Native

Collected by: Gethin & Jenny



Fimbristylis dichotoma

Common name: Common Fringe Sedge

Family: Sedge

Status: Native

Collected by: Selina



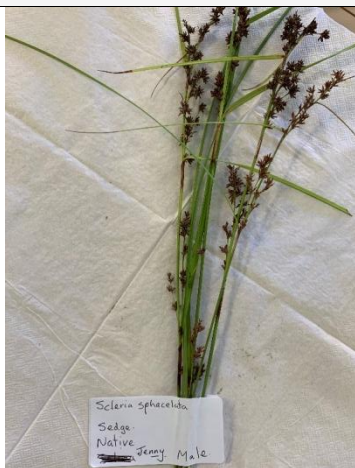
Mnesithea rottboellioides

Common name: Northern Cane Grass

Family: Grass

Status: Native

Collected by: Cate



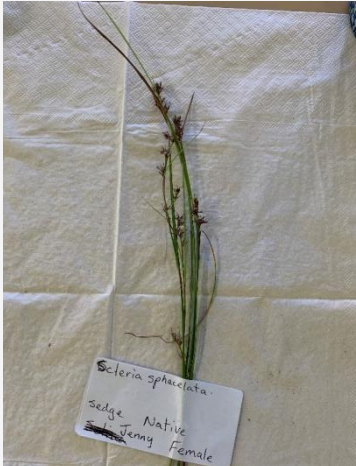

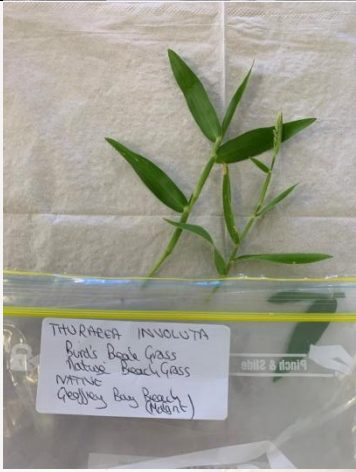
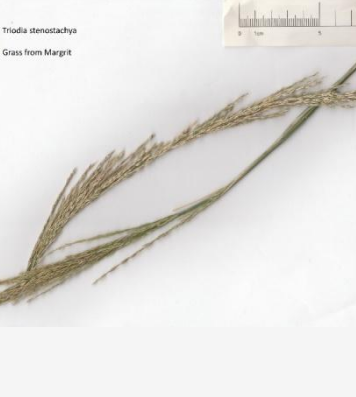
Scleria sphacelata (male)

Common name: Razor grass


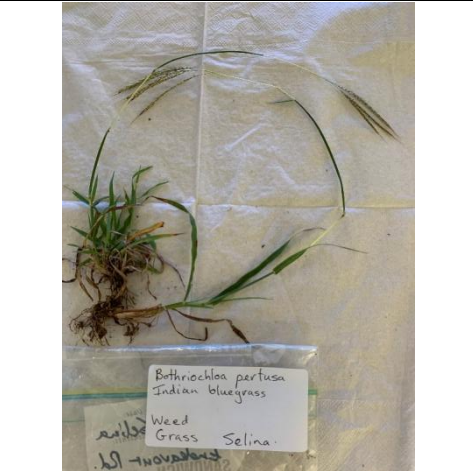

Family: Grass

Status: Native

Collected by: Jenny M

	<p>Scleria sphacelata (female)</p> <p><i>Common name:</i> Razor grass</p> <p><i>Family:</i> Grass</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Native</p> <p><i>Collected by:</i> Jenny M</p>
	<p>Scleria mackaviensis</p> <p><i>Common name:</i> Tufted Scleria sedge</p> <p><i>Family:</i> Sedge</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Native</p> <p><i>Collected by:</i> Cate, Selina</p>
	<p>Thuarea involuta</p> <p><i>Common name:</i> Bird's Beach Grass</p> <p><i>Family:</i> Grass</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Native</p> <p><i>Collected by:</i> Margrit</p>
	<p>Triodia stenostachya</p> <p><i>Common name:</i> Porcupine Grass</p> <p><i>Family:</i> Grass</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Native</p> <p><i>Collected by:</i> Margrit</p>

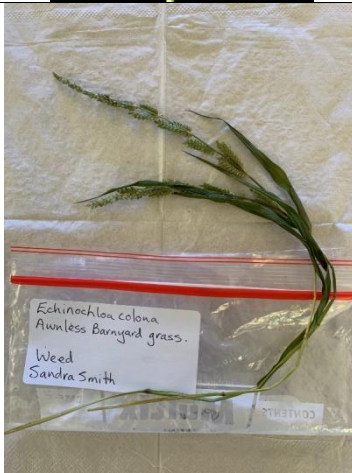
WEEDS

	<p>Axonopus compressus</p> <p><i>Common Name:</i> Buffalo Grass, Blanket Grass</p> <p><i>Family:</i> Grass</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Weed</p> <p><i>Collected by:</i> Sue</p>
	<p>Bothriochloa pertusa</p> <p><i>Common Name:</i> Indian Bluegrass</p> <p><i>Family:</i> Grass</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Weed</p> <p><i>Collected by:</i> Cate</p>
	<p>Cyperus kyllingia</p> <p><i>Common name:</i> Kyllingia weed</p> <p><i>Family:</i> Sedge</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Weed</p> <p><i>Collected by:</i> Dave</p> <p>Note: Native sedges can also have a dense cluster of spikelets so care needs to be taken when identifying</p>



Picture of *Cyperus kyllingia* - to enable better identification. There are native species that look like it. Leaves are wide, 2-4 mm.

The native sedge *Cyperus pulchellus* looks like this. Leaves are narrower, 1-1.5 mm.



Echinochloa colona

Common name: Awnless Barnyard Grass

Family: Grass

Status: Weed

Collected by: Sandra




Eleusine indica


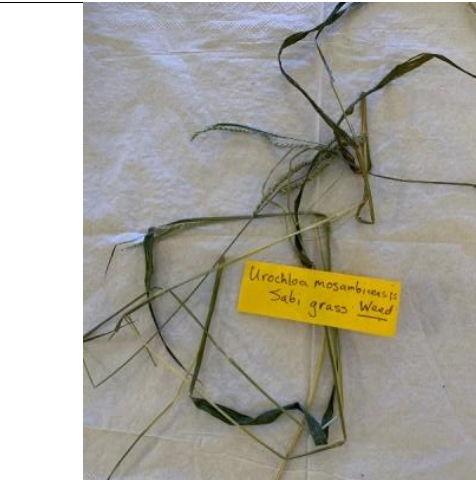

Common name: Crowsfoot Grass

Family: Grass

Status: Weed

Collected by: Cate

 <p>A photograph of a dried plant specimen of <i>Eragrostis mexicana</i>. The plant is pressed on a white background. A small white label is attached to the top left of the specimen, with handwritten text: "Eragrostis mexicana", "No. 1", "weed", and "Cate". A ruler is visible in the background for scale.</p>	<p>Eragrostis mexicana</p> <p><i>Common name:</i> Mexican Lovegrass</p> <p><i>Family:</i> Grass</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Weed</p> <p><i>Collected by:</i> Cate</p>
 <p>A photograph of a dried plant specimen of <i>Eragrostis tenella</i>. The plant is pressed on a white background. A small white label is attached to the bottom left of the specimen, with handwritten text: "Eragrostis tenella", "Weed", and "Jeanette".</p>	<p>Eragrostis tenella</p> <p><i>Common name:</i> Delicate Lovegrass</p> <p><i>Family:</i> Grass</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Weed</p> <p><i>Collected by:</i> Jeanette, Selina</p>
 <p>A photograph of a dried plant specimen of <i>Megathyrsus maximus</i>. The plant is pressed on a white background. A small white label is attached to the bottom left of the specimen, with handwritten text: "Megathyrsus maximus", "Guinea grass", "Weed", and "Sue".</p>	<p>Megathyrsus maximus</p> <p><i>Common name:</i> Guinea Grass</p> <p><i>Family:</i> Grass</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Weed</p> <p><i>Collected by:</i> Selina, Cate, Sue</p>
 <p>A photograph of a dried plant specimen of <i>Melinis repens</i>. The plant is pressed on a white background. A small white label is attached to the bottom left of the specimen, with handwritten text: "Melinis repens", "Red Natal grass", and "Cate".</p>	<p>Melinis repens</p> <p><i>Common name:</i> Red Natal Grass</p> <p><i>Family:</i> Grass</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Weed</p> <p><i>Collected by:</i> Cate</p>

	<p>Sporobolus jacquemontii</p> <p><i>Common name:</i> Rat's Tail Grass</p> <p><i>Family:</i> Grass</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Weed</p> <p><i>Collected by:</i> Cate</p>
	<p>Urochloa mosambicensis</p> <p><i>Common name:</i> Sabi Grass</p> <p><i>Family:</i> Grass</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Weed</p> <p><i>Collected by:</i> Sandra, Cate</p>
	<p>Urochloa subquadrifera</p> <p><i>Common name:</i> Green Summer Grass</p> <p><i>Family:</i> Grass</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Weed</p> <p><i>Collected by:</i> Gethin & Jenny</p>