



Spiny matrush

Botanical Name *Lomandra longifolia*

Habitat/Ecology Streamlines and eucalypt woodlands; wide range of habitats (creek banks to cliffs). Larval food plant for numerous butterflies. Re-sprouts after fire.

Home use Attractive garden plant; white leaf bases are edible (similar taste as green peas); tough leaves used for basket-making by Aboriginal peoples (split and then softened in ashes). Indoor container plant.

Habit Dense clumps; long, straight leaves to 100cm.

Flowers/Fruit **Flowers:** spring and summer; perfumed; similar male and female flowers but occur separately; creamy yellow to purplish; bracts are longer than flowers.

Fruits: capsules 5 mm; 1-2 months after flowering.

Leaves/Stems **Leaves:** long, straight, flat to convex leaves (sometimes rolled); 2 to 3 'teeth' at the apex; to 100 cm x 0.8 cm.

Propagation Fresh seeds or clump division; light sand to heavy clay.

Water/Shade Requires soil moisture; tolerates dryness, flooding and low temperatures; full sun/partial shade.

Maintenance Easy to maintain; few pests/diseases.



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Updated 28 June 2017