

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower head. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Cooma



Partly open flower head. Photographer Zoya Akulova, California, USA



Flowering plant. Photographer JC Schou, Denmark



Line drawing. USDA NRCS PLANTS database. Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. Vol. 3: 313.

## Common name

Salsify, Oyster plant

## Family

Asteraceae

## Where found

**Grassland**, roadsides, and wasteland. Mainly Sydney, Canberra, and the tablelands. Occasional elsewhere.

## Notes

**Introduced annual** or **biennial** herb to about 1.3 m high. Hairless, sometimes **glaucous**. Basal leaves 5–30 cm long, 10–20 mm wide, grass-like, **linear**, half-sheathing at the base, tips pointed. Stem leaves **alternating** up the stems, 3–30 cm long, up to 10 mm wide, bases stem-clasping, tips pointed. Flower **heads** with many lilac to deep violet or purple '**petals**', each as long as or slightly shorter than **bracts**. Flower heads 5–12 mm in diameter below the '**petals**'. 5–8 bracts **appressed** to and surrounding the flower heads, each 25–60 mm long. Flower heads open only for a short time in the morning. Flowering: mostly Oct–Jan. Root edible.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Tragopogon-porrifolius> (accessed 23 March, 2021)

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