

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Little Desert National Park south of Nhill, Vic.



Flowering plant. Photographer Don Wood, Bungonia State Conservation Area east of Goulburn



Flowering plants. Photographer Richard Hartland, Brisbane Ranges, Vic

Common name

Austral Grass-tree, Kangaroo Tails

Family

Xanthorrhoeaceae

Where found

Dry **forest**, **heath**, and rocky slopes. Widespread, mainly on the ranges.

Notes

Tree-like **perennial** herb, stem often branched; **crowns** one to many. Trunks with a pithy core surrounded by the flattened glossy bases of old leaves. Trunk to 3 m high, **scape** below the flower **spike** to 0.5 m long, 18–40 mm in diameter, spike 1.1–2.5 m high, 50–80 mm in diameter. Leaves clustered at the top of the trunk(s), forming an **erect** tuft when young, becoming **spreading**. Leaves mostly 4-sided, diamond-shaped in cross section, 1.2–3 mm wide, 1–2.2 mm thick, blue-grey, **glaucous**. It produces a red-brown resinous exudate at the bases of the leaves. Individual flowers white to cream, small, with 6 '**petals**' in two rows, outer '**petals**' papery or more or less membranous, inner '**petals**' membranous. **Bracts** surrounding the flowers very prominent, elongated, gradually tapering to a fine point, and hairless. Bracts between the flowers tapering to a long fine point, and hairless. Flowers Winter to Summer.

Family Asphodelaceae in Vic.

Protected NSW.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Xanthorrhoea-australis> (accessed 12 February, 2021)

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