



## Grass Tree

*Xanthorrhoea glauca*



Family: Xanthorrhoeaceae

Monocot tree 1 - 5 m



**Distribution:** Australia –wide, primarily on east and west coasts.

**Description:** Slow growing monocot able to form a trunk from old leaf bases and a naturally occurring resin. The trunk can have one or many spherical crowns of blue-green to greyish grass type leaves. Flowers are borne on a long seed spike above a bare section called a scape, the total length can be up to four metres long in some species.

**Propagation:** seed is easily collected and germinated, but the root system is sensitive. Transplant with at least one cubic metre of soil.

**Habitat:** thrives in well drained, aerated soils that have a low nutrient content. Amazing ability to survive a variety of different fire regimes as the living growth is buried within the old dead leaf bases. Best results are achieved by planting on top of a mound. Requires little water and is resistant to many insect infestations.

**Uses:** The flowering spike makes the perfect fishing spear. It is also soaked in water and the nectar from the flowers gives a sweet tasting drink. The resin is an adhesive for spears, leaky coolamons and even didgeridoos.