

Lomandra or Spiny-headed Mat-rush

Lomandra longifolia



Family: Xanthorrhoeaceae

A perennial, rhizomatous herb to 1m



Distribution: Australia wide except for the Northern Territory and Western Australia

Description: The strappy leaves are 40 cm to 80 cm long, and generally have a leaf of about 8 mm to 12 mm wide. Flowers are scented and dioecious, with the female flower often a little bit longer or larger than the male flower. The heavy-smelling nectar on flowers can attract pollinating beetles. Flowers in warm temperature (late winter/early spring), and fruiting occurs 1-2 months after flowering.

Propagation: propagates by seed or clump division. When the fruits are matured and turn brown, sow the seed in moist soil for 6 weeks.

Habitat: Highly drought-tolerant but also can tolerate occasional flooding, withstand low temperature down to -7°C and succeeds in moist soil in Australia.

Uses: The leaves make strong nets and baskets, and the seeds can be ground for use in damper. The base of the leaves is also used as food. Good border plant for bush regeneration.