

## Species

### Seagrass Species in New South Wales

Seagrasses in NSW are found in estuaries and sheltered marine areas where there is not a great amount of ocean currents or wave action. They are often found alongside other seagrasses or marine algae (seaweed). There are eight species of seagrass that grow within NSW.

#### Halophila species

Commonly known as Paddleweed, Halophila is one of the smallest seagrass species in the world. This species is a coloniser and recovers well after disturbance.

Common Species in NSW: *H. australis*, *H. decipiens*, *H. ovalis*

#### Posidonia species

Posidonia, also known as Strapweed, is one of the slowest growing seagrasses in the world. Studies on Posidonia have indicated that damaged beds could take hundreds of years to recover.

Common Species in NSW: *P. australis*

#### Ruppia Species

Ruppia seagrass species are commonly known as Sea Tassel. Ruppia is not a true seagrass as it releases its spores into the air and rather than

in the water like the other seagrasses. It also can tolerate a range of saline conditions from seawater to fresh water, and may be found close to salt-water sources such as the estuary mouth.

Common Species in NSW: *R. megacarpa*

#### Zostera species

Commonly called Eelgrass, *Zostera* species are closely related and identification between species is difficult and often depends on microscopic analysis of the rhizome or root system. Although *Zostera* and *Posidonia* have a similar appearance, *Posidonia* has a much wider (thicker) blade than *Zostera*.

Common Species in NSW: *Z. capricorni*, *Z. muelleri* *Hertzostera*, *tasminca*

All photos courtesy Peter Adderley.