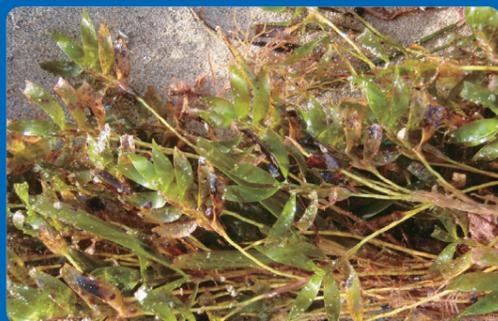


BRINGING THE BEACH TO YOU

WEST COAST REGION



WIREEED

Wireweed is common along the Perth coast and forms large beds (meadows) in sandy areas. Seagrasses may provide nursery areas for juvenile fish.



COMB ANCHOR

The hooked base of a wireweed seedling is called a comb anchor. When the seedling is released from the main plant, it uses the hook to attach itself to the seafloor.



KELP

Kelp is commonly found washed ashore after rough seas. It mainly grows on limestone reefs, attaching itself with a holdfast.



SARGASSUM

Sargassum, meaning 'floating seaweed' in Spanish, is a type of brown algae. The small bubbles help it float in the water column.



LOBED BUBBLE WEED

This irregular shaped algae is found in the intertidal zone and to depths of ~15 m. It is generally more common in summer.



STRAPWEED

Strapweed or *Posidonia* is a common seagrass found along the Perth region. Seagrasses are extremely important in stabilising the sandy sea bed.



FIBRE BALL

These furry balls that wash up on the beach come from the seagrass *Posidonia* or strapweed. The leaves break off from the stem and are rolled into a ball by the waves and currents.



VELVET SPONGE WEED

Similar to dead man's fingers, velvet sponge weed has a firm but spongy texture and grows in irregular shapes. Another similar alga is the velvet golf ball.



SLIMY BAGS

Be careful if you break one of these red algae open. Slimy bags are filled with a thick slimy substance (their species name, *gloiosaccion*, means 'glue sacks').



BROWN STRAPWEED

Brown strapweed can grow to 2 m in length. It normally grows along rough coasts in temperate waters.



PADDLEWEED

Paddleweed is easy to recognise by its oval leaves. Unlike strapweed and wireweed, it does not form large beds (meadows).



DEAD MAN'S FINGERS

This green algae has tube-like forked branches, a firm but spongy texture and belongs to a group of algae called *Codium*.



SEA LETTUCE

This green algae is edible and is also an important food source for marine life, such as abalone.



JELLYWEED

This red algae was used in the early days to thicken jelly and blancmange (milk pudding).



SEAGRASS FRUITS

Seagrasses, like grasses on land produce flowers (fruits) and seeds.



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BRINGING THE BEACH TO YOU - WEST COAST REGION CONTINUED...



SPONGES

Commonly mistaken for plants, sponges are in fact filter-feeding animals.



ABALONE

Abalone do not have a clotting agent in their blood so can bleed to death if they are damaged when removed from the reef.



SAUSAGE JELLY

This is actually the egg sac of a certain type of sand or moon snail.



RAM'S HORN SHELL

This tiny shell is the internal skeleton of a small squid-like animal, *Spirula spirula*.



COLONIAL ASCIDIAN

These blobs are actually a group (or colony) of animals. They sometimes look like a sponge on rocks or reefs, but will respond when touched.



BLUEBOTTLE

Bluebottles are not actually a single animal but lots of animals (called a colony) that depend on each other for survival. Warning – even when washed up on the beach they can still sting!



VIOLET SNAILS

These purple snails float upside down out in the ocean by producing their own bubble raft. They are carnivores and feed on animals like bluebottles.



RAZOR CLAMS

Razor clams bury themselves in sand, attached (anchored) to buried rocks with their beard (byssal threads). The top, sharp edge of the shell pokes through the sand.



CUTTLEBONES

These are the internal shells of a cuttle (or cuttlefish). Look carefully for teeth marks to find out what ate the cuttle!



PORT JACKSON EGG CASE

This egg case is home to a juvenile Port Jackson shark for up to 12 months before it hatches.



TUBE WORM

This used to be a tube worm's home. It builds this tube to protect itself from predators.



TURBAN SHELLS

Turban snails live in rock pools and on shallow reefs. They have a trap door (called an operculum) to protect the snail's body from predators.



MUSSELS

Mussels are bivalve molluscs – meaning they have two shells (valves) joined by a hinge.



SEA URCHINS

This hollow ball is called a test and is the internal skeleton of a sea urchin. The mouth may still be seen on the underside of the test.



SEADRAGON

Seahorses and seadragons belong to the same family, however the seadragon does not have the curly tail of a seahorse (called a prehensile tail – as it has the ability to grasp objects).



CRAB

Crabs have a hard shell or exoskeleton (external skeleton) to help protect them from predators.



OPERCULUM

These commonly washed up shells are the trap doors from turban snails and are often called cat's eyes.



SCALLOPS

True scallops and saucer scallops can swim! They open and close their shell, forcing water in and out to move themselves along.



SEA TULIP

While their name suggests that they may be a plant, sea tulips are in fact an animal known as a solitary (single) ascidian, or sea squirt.



SHAW'S COWFISH

Shaw's cowfish belong to the boxfish family. These fish have different colours, patterns and markings on their bodies for males and females.