

## **Poster: Bringing the Beach to You - West Coast (Secondary)**

### **WA Curriculum**

K-10 Science, SS Biology – ATAR, SS Biology – General, SS Integrated Science – ATAR, SS Integrated Science – General, SS Marine and Maritime Studies – ATAR, SS Marine and Maritime Studies – General

### **Region**

West Coast

### **Summary**

Explore the classification of beach flotsam and jetsam of the West Coast bioregion.

Plants and algae

Seagrasses

Algae: ● green ▲ brown ■ red

Wireweed



Wireweed forms large beds (meadows) in sandy areas. They have a segmented, woody stems and short leaves.

Comb anchor



These are the hooked base of a wireweed seedling. When released from the parent plant, the hook anchors the seedling to the seabed.

Sea lettuce



This green algae grows in thin, wavy sheets and is an important food source for marine life, such as abalone.

Kelp



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

Jelly weed



This red algae was used in the early days of the Swan River Colony as a food thickening agent. Their main branches are thick and rubbery covered by short, spiny branches.

Strapweed



Strapweed has long ribbon-like leaves and forms large beds (meadows) in sandy areas.

Fibre ball



These fibrous balls come from strapweed. The leaves break off from the stem and are rolled into a ball by the waves and currents. They can also form from the roots and stems of wireweed.

Dead man's fingers



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

Sargassum



Sargassum, meaning 'floating seaweed' in Spanish, is a group of brown algae. The small bubbles among its fronds help it stay upright in the water column which aids in photosynthesis.

Slimy bags



Slimy bags are simple sausage shapes filled with a thick slimy substance (their species name, *gloiosaccus*, means 'glue sacks').

Paddleweed



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

Seagrass fruit



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

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 algae is the velvet golf ball.

Funnel weed



Funnel weed has frilled edged funnels with distinctive concentric pale circles. The tapered end provides a home for tiny sea animals.

Red sea fern



Sea ferns are often found in areas of high turbulence. They feature many branching stipes and fronds creating a fluffy appearance.

Marine Waters

marinewaters.fish.wa.gov.au

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