



Poster: Bringing the Beach to You - West Coast

WA Curriculum

K-10 Science

Region

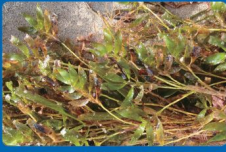
West Coast

Summary

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

BRINGING THE BEACH TO YOU

WEST COAST REGION



WIREWEED

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 algae 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, *gloriosaccor*, 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 blanchmange (milk pudding).



SEAGRASS FRUITS

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



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