

West Coast Beachcombing Field Guide

Phase of learning

Kindergarden - Pre Primary, Years 1 - 2, Years 3 - 4, Years 5 - 6, Years 7 - 8, Years 9 - 10, Senior Secondary (Years 11-12)

Region

West Coast

Summary

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

Download the West Coast Beachcombing Field Guide [here](#).

BRINGING THE BEACH TO YOU WEST COAST REGION

 <p>WIREEED</p> <p>Wireweed is common along the Perth coast and forms large beds (meadows) in sandy areas. Seagrasses may provide nursery areas for juvenile fish.</p>	 <p>COMB ANCHOR</p> <p>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.</p>	 <p>KELP</p> <p>Kelp is commonly found washed ashore after rough seas. It mainly grows on limestone reefs, attaching itself with a holdfast.</p>	 <p>SARGASSUM</p> <p><i>Sargassum</i>, meaning "floating seaweed" in Spanish, is a type of brown algae. The small bubbles help it float in the water column.</p>	 <p>LOBED BUBBLE WEED</p> <p>This irregular shaped algae is found in the intertidal zone and to depths of ~15 m. It is generally more common in summer.</p>
 <p>STRAPWEED</p> <p>Strapweed or <i>Posidonia</i> is a common seagrass found along the Perth region. Seagrasses are extremely important in stabilising the sandy sea bed.</p>	 <p>FIBRE BALL</p> <p>These furry balls that wash up on the beach come from the seagrass <i>Posidonia</i> or strapweed. The leaves break off from the stem and are rolled into a ball by the waves and currents.</p>	 <p>VELVET SPONGE WEED</p> <p>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.</p>	 <p>SLIMY BAGS</p> <p>Be careful if you break one of these red algae open. Slimy bags are filled with a thick slimy substance (their species name, <i>gloriosaccion</i>, means 'glue sacks').</p>	 <p>BROWN STRAPWEED</p> <p>Brown strapweed can grow to 2 m in length. It normally grows along rough coasts in temperate waters.</p>
 <p>PADDLEWEED</p> <p>Paddleweed is easy to recognise by its oval leaves. Unlike strapweed and wireweed, it does not form large beds (meadows).</p>	 <p>DEAD MAN'S FINGERS</p> <p>This green algae has tube-like forked branches, a firm but spongy texture and belongs to a group of algae called <i>Codium</i>.</p>	 <p>SEA LETTUCE</p> <p>This green algae is edible and is also an important food source for marine life, such as abalone.</p>	 <p>JELLYWEED</p> <p>This red algae was used in the early days to thicken jelly and blancmange (milk pudding).</p>	 <p>SEAGRASS FRUITS</p> <p>Seagrasses, like grasses on land produce flowers (fruits) and seeds.</p>



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Sponsored by



Woodside



Marine Waters
marinewaters.fish.wa.gov.au

Related resources

[Hillarys School Excursion: Bringing the Beach to You](#)

[Poster: Bringing the Beach to You - South Coast](#)

[Poster: Bringing the Beach to You - Cocos \(Keeling\) Islands](#)

[Poster: Bringing the Beach to You - Christmas Island](#)