

SANDY BEACH HERBLAND

The Norfolk Island Vegetation Mapping Project has described and mapped 14 distinct native plant communities on Norfolk Island. This series of fact sheets presents information about each of the communities.

Sandy Beach Herbland

Low growing, non-woody plants growing in sand at Slaughter Bay, Anson Bay and Cemetery Bay.

The upper sandy beaches at Kingston and Anson Bay support typical sandy beach species. They include salt couch (*Sporobolus virginicus*), coastal spurge (*Euphorbia obliqua*), native vinya (*Vigna*

marina), *Canavalia rosea* and club rush (*Ficinia nodosa*).

The creeping plant *Calystegia soldanella*, now probably extinct on the island, once occurred in this community.



Sandy Beach Herbland at Anson Bay. Photo: Kevin Mills

SANDY BEACH HERBLAND

Plant community	Key species	Other species	Threatened species
Sandy Beach Herbland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salt couch (<i>Sporobolus virginicus</i>) • Goats foot (<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>) • Mile-a-minute (<i>Wollstonia biflora</i>) • Club rush (<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>) • Coastal spinifex (<i>Spinifex hirsuta</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native spinach (<i>Tetragonia tetragonioides</i>) • Pigface (<i>Carpobrotus glaucescens</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal spurge (<i>Euphorbia obliqua</i>) • <i>Calystegia soldanella</i>

Indicative species composition

The table above identifies the key species present (those species that are most characteristic of the plant community), other species (additional species that are likely to be present and assist in defining the community), and some of the threatened species present.

Further information

These fact sheets are based on the Norfolk Island Vegetation Mapping Project conducted by the Invasive Species Council between 2018 and 2020. Naomi Christian and Dr Kevin Mills conducted the vegetation surveys, and described and mapped the native plant communities. Two maps were produced – one showing the estimated distribution of native plant communities in 1750, and one showing their distribution in 2020.

The plant community maps are available at:

- www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/services/waste-and-environment/native-vegetation/native-vegetation-mapping-project
- www.invasives.org.au/niveg

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There are 180 native plant species on the Norfolk Island Group, of which around 25% are endemic. Forty-six species have been identified as threatened with extinction. Describing and mapping the 14 native plant communities was done to help land managers protect and restore habitat for these threatened species and other wildlife of Norfolk Island.