

PLANT COMMUNITY FIELD GUIDE



Swamp Oak– Sedge Forest



Map
Unit
41



HCCREMS Extant Vegetation Mapping

Vegetation communities this guide have been classified and mapped according to Hunter Central Coast Regional Environment Management Strategy (HCCREMS) Vegetation Survey, using Mapping Units (MU). For more comprehensive and up-to-date information on this survey please contact HCCREMS.

<http://www.hccrems.com.au>

When you are starting out regenerating a bushland site, it may be that you don't know a lot of native species, but if you can provide a council vegetation officer, community support officer or local native plant nursery with some of the information from the Field Data sheet, it is likely that they would be able to identify the broader vegetation community.

The Site Orientation Booklet in this series has a useful contact list including:

Coastcare Officers

Landcare and Community Support Officers

National Parks Officers

Land Managers

Field Data Sheet

Habitat Type: <i>please circle</i>					
River bank	Wetland	Floodplain	Drainage line		
Open Forest	Closed Forest	Rainforest	Disturbed / Grazed (Livestock)		
Shrub(2-4m)	Heath (< 2m)	Grassland	Other:		
Position on Slope :<i>please circle</i>			Altitude in metres		
Watercourse	Flat	Lower Slope		Upper Slope	Crest
Geology		Aspect: <i>please circle</i>			
		N NE E SE S SW W NW			
Soil Description					
Colour	Type	pH	Sand		
			Clay Loam		
Vegetation Description					
Vegetation community, association, type		Weed Invasion: <i>please circle</i> High Medium Low			
Dominant upper storey species		Species diversity: <i>please circle</i> High Medium Low			
Dominant middle storey species		Species diversity: <i>please circle</i> High Medium Low			
Dominant lower storey/groundcover species		Species diversity: <i>please circle</i> High Medium Low			

Common swamp/wetland forest communities in the Lower Hunter

If this information is expanded to the other most common wetland forest communities in the Lower Hunter, a little bit of knowledge and access to the appropriate support officers should allow you to increase your knowledge of your site, and therefore manage your site better.

To do this, you need to be able to identify the dominant species by at least their common names. In a Swamp Forest community, the dominant species would be the tall trees. Swamp Oak (MU40 and MU41), Broad-leaved Paperbark, Swamp Mahogany, Forest Redgum (MU40, MU41 and MU37).



Melaleuca quinquenervia
Broad-leaved Paperbark



Casuarina glauca
Swamp-Oak



Eucalyptus robusta
Swamp Mahogany



Eucalyptus tereticornis
Forest Redgum

On many sites, there may be some overlapping of these species and other species.

You need to make a decision as to which species is most numerous on the site. If you are not sure, then take a photo and collect some foliage (not just one leaf) and capsules, and consult your support network.



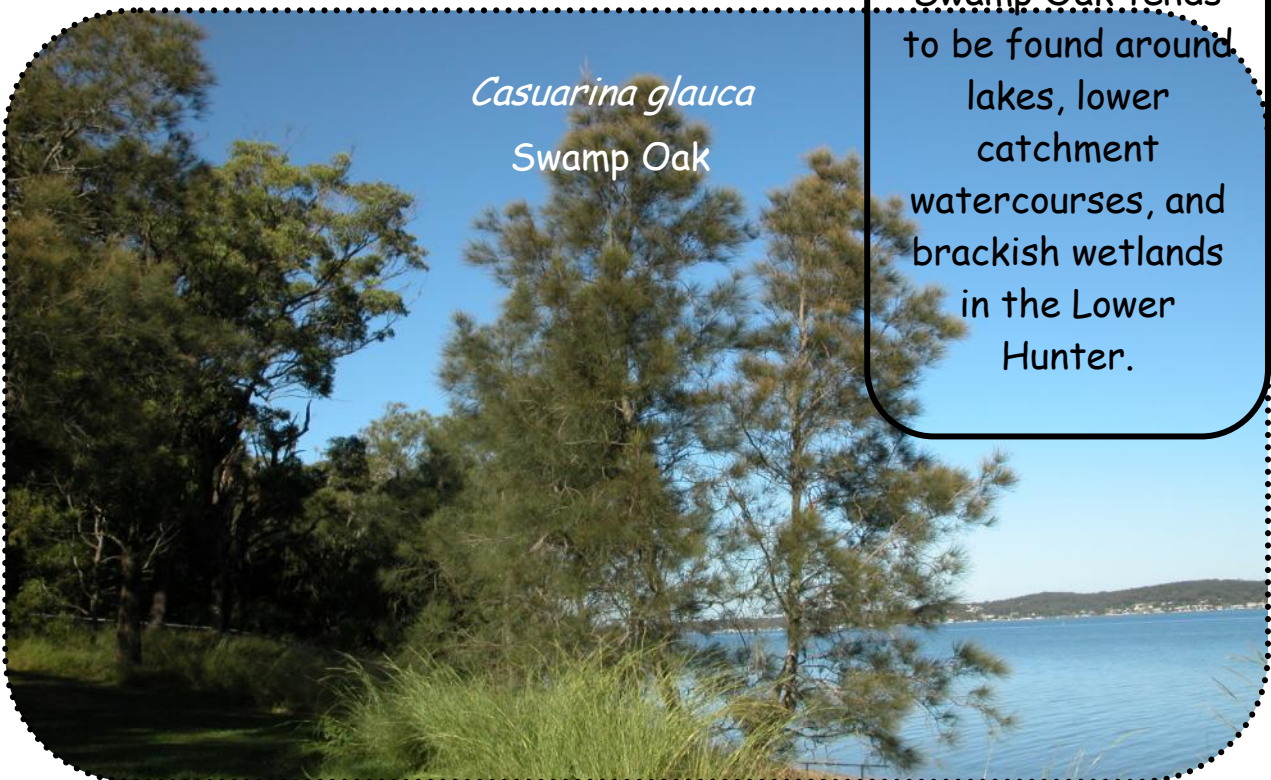
Eucalyptus robusta
Swamp Mahogany



Eucalyptus robusta
Swamp Mahogany

If you have She-oaks on site this is also another good indicator.

Swamp Oak tends to be found around lakes, lower catchment watercourses, and brackish wetlands in the Lower Hunter.



Casuarina glauca
Swamp Oak

A description of a plant community

Abridged from http://www.lhccrems.com.au/biodiversity/mu38_41.html#mu40

MU41. Swamp Oak Sedge Forest

Canopy Label:

Casuarina glauca / *Melaleuca linariifolia*

Structural Classification (Specht):

Open Forest

Description

Swamp Oak Sedge Forest occurs in low-lying areas and riparian strips along the coastal plain and alluvial flats. A small tree canopy is of a medium height (to about 20m), usually dense and characterised by *Casuarina glauca*, and *Melaleuca linariifolia*. A taller stratum of *Eucalyptus robusta* and occasionally *Eucalyptus tereticornis* may also be present.

The key feature of this assemblage is the dense understorey of the freshwater sedge *Carex appressa*. Amongst the sedges herbs, grasses and fern species are common. These include *Commelina cyanea*, *Alternanthera denticulata*, *Entolasia marginata*, *Hypolepis muelleri*, *Gahnia clarkei* and *Ranunculus inundatus*.

This community is closely related to 40: Swamp Oak-Rushland Forest through a sharing of high abundance of *Casuarina glauca*. However Map Unit 40 is typically found fringing estuarine environments where brackish-saline sedges and rushes are dominant.

No similar community is described in NPWS (1999(a)). Only a generic Swamp Oak community is described here. On the Cumberland Plain in Sydney NPWS (2000) describe a Riparian Woodland which exhibits a similar habitat and floristic composition although sites describing this community are few.

MU 41 Swamp Oak-Sedge Forest

Stratum	Species	% in community	Common Name
Tallest	<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	28	
	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	14	
Mid	<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	71	
	<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i>	42	
	<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	28	
	<i>Melaleuca nodosa</i>	14	
	<i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i>	14	
	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	14	
	<i>Carex appressa</i>	85	
Lowest (<1m)	<i>Commelina cyanea</i>	85	
	<i>Alternanthera denticulata</i>	71	
	<i>Entolasia marginata</i>	57	
	<i>Hypolepis muelleri</i>	57	
	<i>Gahnia clarkei</i>	42	
	<i>Ranunculus inundatus</i>	42	
	<i>Enydra fluctuans</i>	14	
	<i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i>	14	
	<i>Juncus usitatus</i>	28	
	<i>Persicaria decipiens</i>	28	
<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>	28		
Vines and Epiphytes	<i>Parsonsia straminea</i>	57	

A picture guide to plants in MU 41 Swamp Oak-sedge Forest

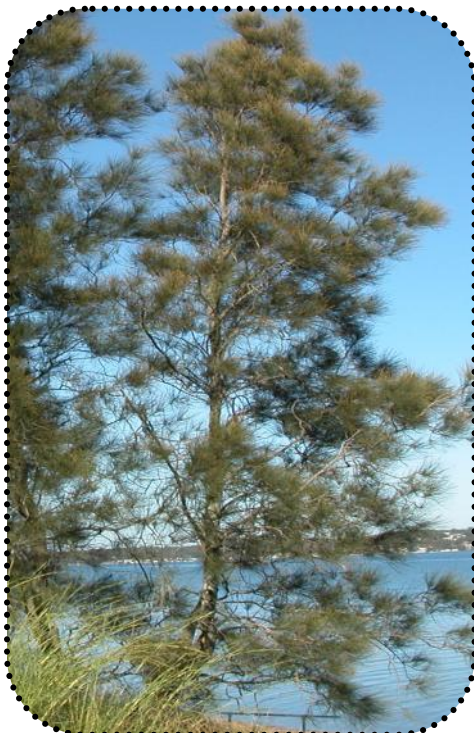
Tallest



*Eucalyptus
robusta*
Swamp
Mahogany

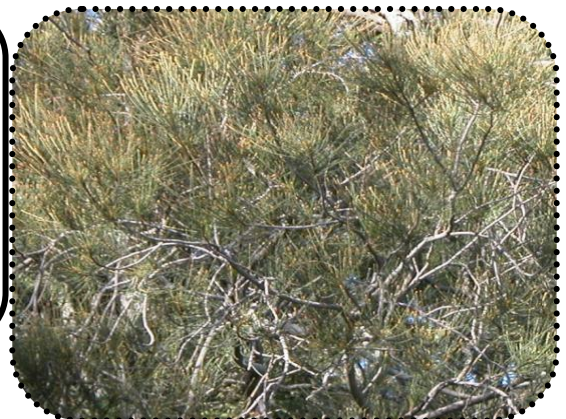


*Eucalyptus
teretecornis*
Forest Red Gum



Mid

*Casuarina
glauca*
Swamp She
-oak



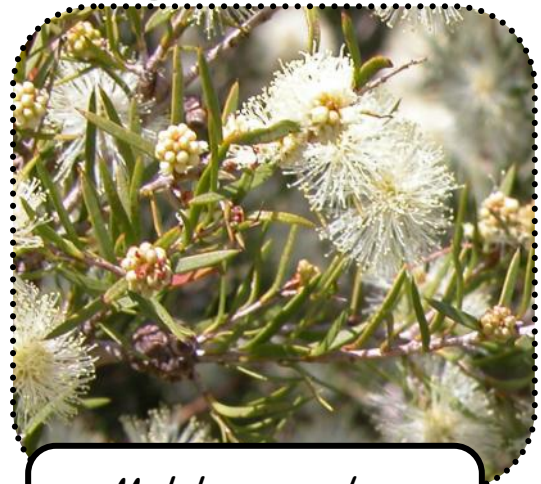
A picture guide to plants in MU 41 Swamp Oak-sedge Forest

Mid storey



*Melaleuca
linariifolia*

Snow in
Summer



Melaleuca nodosa
Ball Honey Myrtle



*Melaleuca
quinquenervia*
Broad-leaved
Paperbark



Melaleuca styphelioides
Prickly-leaved Paperbark

A picture guide to plants in MU 41 Swamp Oak-sedge Forest



Lowest <1m

Carex appressa
Tall Sedge



Commelina cyanea
Creeping Christian



Hypolepis muelleri
Harsh Ground Fern



Gahnia clarkei
Saw Sedge



Vines

Parsonsia straminea
Common Silkpod



References

Hunter Councils Inc (2003) Lower Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Strategy http://www.lhccrems.com.au/biodiversity/mu38_41.html#mu40 (Accessed 10.05.07)

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Cover - Botanical Clip Art -Down Under Collection Deluxe CD-New Horizons Educational Software .www.nh.com.au

Page 8 Melaleuca linariifolia Photo J Plaza <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Melaleuca~linariifolia> (accessed 9/8/07)

Useful people

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Landcare and Community Support Officers

National Parks Officers

Land Managers



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