



Austrostipa flavescens

Coast Spear-grass



(Seeds of South Australia)



(Murfet, D, Seeds of South Australia)



(Grund, R, SA Butterflies & Moths)



Adult
Common
Xenica

Form: Sedge or Flax **Height:** 1 – 1.2 m **Spread:** 0.4 – 0.5 m **Flowers:** Brown **Type:** Grass panicle **Flowering time:** Spring, Summer

Ecological functions:



Soils: sand or gravel; alkaline or neutral

Germination rate: 2 to 4 weeks

Seed collecting: gently strip the seeds off the mature fruiting spike. Mature seeds are brown and will come off easily. Place in a tray and leave to dry for 2 weeks. If seed spikes are collected, use hand to strip off the mature seeds. Store the seeds with a dessicant in an air tight container in a cool and dry place.

Seed treatment: none

Sowing requirements: push the seed points into the soil and firm gently. Then cover with a layer of gravel. Sow in Autumn.

Position: full sun

Supplementary watering: minimal

Uses: an ornamental and hardy native perennial grass. Foliage provides contrast in mixed plantings. Planted in parks and reserves as a food source for small native mammals and birds. Food host to Common Xenica (*Geitoneura klugii*) caterpillars.

Notes: requires well-drained soils.