

Calcareous Swale 'Grassland' (EVC A309)

Ecological Vegetation Classes on the Mornington Peninsula

An Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) is the standard unit for classifying native vegetation types in Victoria. Over 60 EVCs occur across the diverse landscape of the Mornington Peninsula. This EVC profile presents local environmental information for a specific EVC and is a useful reference for anyone interested in understanding, protecting, and restoring the unique biodiversity that occurs in their area.

Calcareous Swale 'Grassland' Description

An open grassland/sedgeland to an open woodland community located on red soils (terra rossa) in deep calcareous sand dunes. Mostly located below the 15-metre contour level, in the swales at the bottom of sand dunes, or in flatter, lower-lying areas across the southern Mornington Peninsula.

Variations between grassland or sedgeland are dependent on moisture and aspect. Can contain islands of trees and shrubs amongst the open grassland/sedgeland. Can also be a grassland/sedgeland emerging amongst stands of collapsing Coast Tea-tree.

Pre-1750 distribution	Historically a widespread open woodland/grassland community across the southern Peninsula. Predicted to have once occupied approximately 38% of the southern Peninsula. See map below.
Present distribution	Highly localised - estimated to be between 50-100 hectares remaining (approximately 1% of the southern Peninsula).
Peninsula status	Endangered
Bioregional status	Endangered (for the patch of EVC 309 recorded at Wilsons Promontory)
Typical sites	Point Nepean National Park- Cemetery and Wilsons Folly. Revegetation site at St Andrews Beach Recreation Reserve.



Calcareous Swale 'Grassland' (EVC A309)

Calcareous Swale 'Grassland' - Plant List

Scientific name	Common name	Height	Available in nurseries
Trees		m	
<i>Acacia uncifolia</i>	Wirilda Wattle	10	
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Drooping Sheoak	15	✓
<i>Banksia integrifolia</i> subsp. <i>integrifolia</i>	Coast Banksia	25	✓
<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	Coast Tea-tree	5	✓
Shrubs		cm	
<i>Adriana quadripartita</i>	Coast Bitter-bush	300	
<i>Hibbertia sericea</i>	Silky Guinea-flower	70	
<i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i>	Coast Beard-heath	500	✓
<i>Pimelea serpyllifolia</i> subsp. <i>serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme Rice-flower	150	
<i>Pomaderris paniculosa</i> subsp. <i>paralia</i>	Coast Pomaderris	200	✓
<i>Rhagodia candolleana</i> subsp. <i>candolleana</i>	Seaberry Saltbush	200	✓
Grasses and Sedges		cm	
<i>Austrostipa flavescens</i>	Coast Spear-grass	120	✓
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Knobby Club-sedge	100	✓
<i>Hemarthria uncinata</i> var. <i>uncinata</i>	Mat Grass	80	
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	Blady Grass	60	
<i>Lachnagrostis billardierei</i> subsp. <i>billardierei</i>	Coast Blown-grass	60	
<i>Lepidosperma gladiatum</i>	Coast Sword-sedge	100	✓
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush	100	✓
<i>Poa labillardierei</i>	Common Tussock-grass	100	✓
<i>Poa poiformis</i>	Coast Tussock-grass	100	
<i>Rytidosperma racemosum</i> var. <i>racemosum</i>	Slender Wallaby-grass	60	
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass	100	✓
Ground covers		cm	
<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	Bidgee-widgee	20	✓
<i>Cynoglossum australe</i>	Australian Hound's-tongue	60	
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kidney-weed	4	✓
<i>Oxalis rubens</i>	Dune Wood-sorrel	15	
<i>Senecio odoratus</i>	Scented Groundsel	150	✓
Ferns		cm	
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i> ssp. <i>esculentum</i>	Austral Bracken		
Climbers and Epiphytes			
<i>Clematis microphylla</i>	Small-leaved Clematis		✓
<i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i>	Bower Spinach		✓
<i>Rubus parvifolius</i>	Small-leaf Bramble		✓

Calcareous Swale 'Grassland' (EVC A309)

Further Notes

This EVC profile recognises that the vegetation type Calcareous Swale Grassland is similar in characteristics to the one recorded patch of EVC 309 in Wilson's Promontory, and as such should be assigned a similar EVC name and number. In this profile, the letter A has been placed at the front of the EVC number, to define the EVC as a provisional name and number. This is as per conventions for new EVCs, or EVCs that require revision, that have yet to be formally recognised by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), and whose descriptions may be subject to future change.

The term grassland has been retained in the EVC name; however, it is written with quotation marks to emphasise that the term 'Grassland' infers an open grassy vegetation type that can have some open woodland/shrubland components, rather than always being a true grassland (open with less than 5% tree/shrub cover) community.

If EVC 309 is used to describe the Calcareous Swale Grassland vegetation type in the southern Mornington Peninsula, then the current DELWP EVC Benchmark description requires revision.

Further fieldwork and research are required to define the expected number of species and percentage cover of lifeform categories for EVC A309. Further research is also required to define the vegetation structure observed across Calcareous Swale 'Grassland' sites.

A vegetation profile for the southern Mornington Peninsula, developed by Gidja Walker, is provided below.

