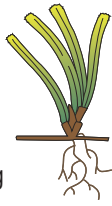




Moreton Bay Seagrass Species

Cymodocea serrulata

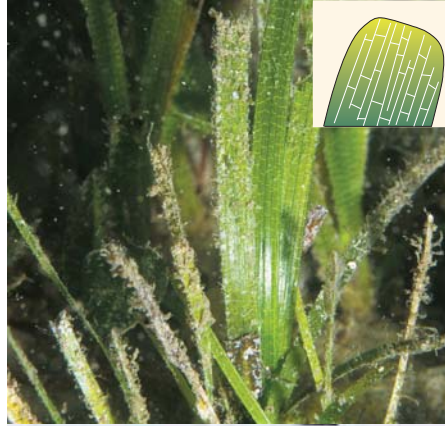
- subtidal to 15m (QLD)
- mostly monospecific meadows
- simple leaf
- leaves flat, leaf tip serrated
- leaves 4-9mm wide, <20cm long
- rhizomes robust



Larkum et. al, 1989

Zostera capricorni

- intertidal / subtidal to 6m (QLD)
- monospecific / mixed meadows
- simple leaf
- leaves flat, leaf tip rounded
- leaves 2-5mm wide, 3-50cm long
- rhizomes light to dark brown
- cross veins in leaf clearly visible



Grice et. al, 1996

Syringodium isoetifolium

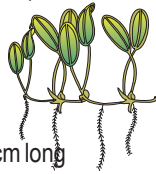
- subtidal to 10m (QLD)
- mostly monospecific meadows
- simple leaf
- leaves cylindrical, leaf tip tapers to point
- leaves 1-2mm diameter, 10-30cm long
- rhizomes fleshy white



Grice et. al, 1996

Halophila ovalis

- intertidal / subtidal to 48m (QLD)
- monospecific / mixed meadows
- simple leaf
- leaves flat
- leaves 0.5-2.0cm wide, 1-4cm long
- rhizomes thin, white to yellow colour



Halophila spinulosa

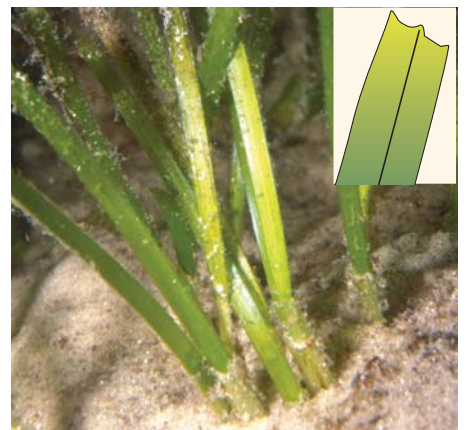
- subtidal to 44m (QLD)
- monospecific / mixed meadows
- compound leaf
- leaves flat, serrated
- 5-20 serrated leaf pairs
- rhizomes thin, light to pink colour



Grice et. al, 1996

Halodule uninervis

- intertidal / subtidal to 10m (QLD)
- monospecific / mixed meadows
- simple leaf
- leaves flat, leaf tip 3 points in 'crown'
- leaves 0.25-5mm wide, <25cm long
- rhizomes thin, light colour
- no cross veins in leaf



Grice et. al, 1996

References / further reading

- Seagrasses in Australia, Butler, A, P Jernakoff, Published by CSIRO, 1999, 209 pp.
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- Moreton Bay and Catchment, Tibbetts, IR, NJ Hall, WC Dennison (eds), School of Marine Science, UQ, Brisbane, 1998, 645 pp.
- Moreton Bay Study: A Scientific Basis for the Healthy Waterways Campaign, Dennison, WC & EG Abal, Brisbane, 1999, 245 pp.
- Light intensity and the interactions between physiology, morphology and stable isotope ratios in five species of seagrass, Grice, AM, NR Loneragan, WC Dennison, Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology 195: 91-110, 1996
- Microbial nutrient cycling in seagrass sediments, Perry, CJ & WC Dennison, AGSO Journal of Australian Geology & Geophysics, 17(5/6), 227-231, 1999
- Ecological Health Monitoring Program, www.healthywaterways.org
- Dugong grazing influences reproductive effort and growth of Halophila ovalis in Moreton Bay, Australia, McMahon, K, M Waycott and WC Dennison, Marine Botany, UQ, 2002 poster



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AUSTRALIA



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Produced by Centre for Marine Studies
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Moreton Bay Seagrasses



Wanga Wallen Banks.



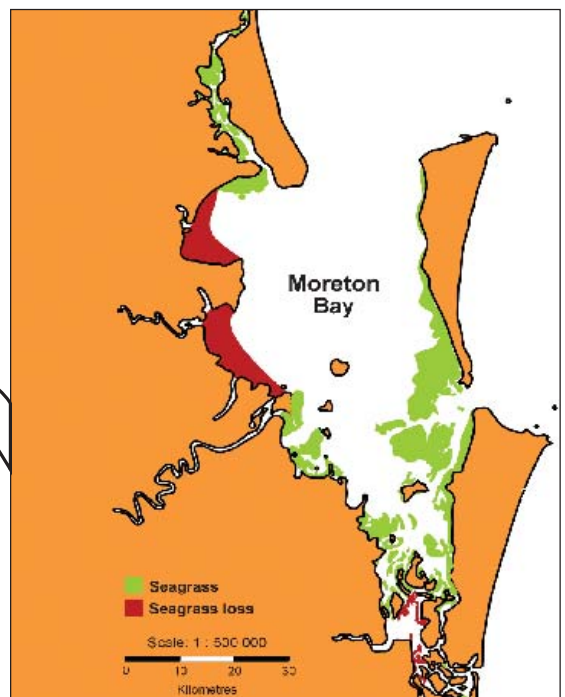
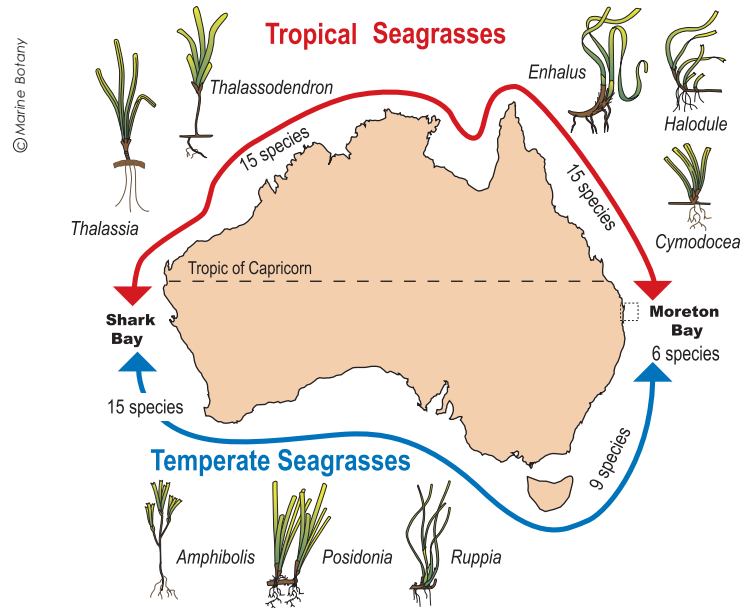
Dugong trails at low tide at Amity Banks .



Lots of invertebrates live in the seagrass beds.

Seagrasses are highly specialised marine flowering plants adapted to soft sediments of nearshore environments. Although there are relatively few species of seagrasses globally (<70 species), these plants have evolved from several lineages of land plants and are adapted to a totally submersed life. Seagrasses are a productive, widespread and ecologically significant feature of nearshore environments. Seagrasses indirectly support various coastal fisheries, largely through provision of a nursery habitat for juvenile animals.

Unlike algae, seagrasses have roots and vascular tissue allowing them to absorb and translocate nutrients from soft sediment. In low nutrient environments this provides seagrass with a competitive advantage over algae as they can access the higher nutrient concentrations available in the sediment compared to the overlying water. Seagrass habitats directly and indirectly support many coastal fisheries through the provision of important habitat for both juvenile and adult animals.



Distribution of seagrass in Moreton Bay Results from Dennison et al. 1998.

Seagrasses are a prominent feature of both tropical and temperate coastlines of Australia. Australia's 32,000 km coastline contains the largest, most diverse seagrass assemblages in the world. The seagrass in Australia can be divided into those with temperate and those with tropical distributions. Shark Bay in Western Australia and Moreton Bay in southeast Queensland are located at the centre of the overlap zones.