

SALT COUCH PILOT STUDY

(*Sporobolus virginicus* (L.) Kunth)

Pioneer Catchment Landcare | Mackay Region

Project Overview

- Aimed to trial methods for harvesting, propagating, and replanting salt couch in upper tidal zones.
- Addressed a key knowledge gap in salt couch rehabilitation techniques.

Key Objectives

- Test nursery propagation success from vegetative material.
- Assess survival and growth after replanting into natural tidal environments.
- Evaluate the impact of different soil mixes, containers, and watering regimes.

Methodology

- Salt couch was harvested from upper tidal zones.
- Propagation trials were conducted at two locations - nursery and on-farm.
- Plants grown in both tiles and cell trays, with 4 types of potting media tested.
- Replanting at 4 tidal sites near the harvest location, monitored for 12 weeks.

Key Findings

- Salt couch can be successfully propagated in nurseries and re-established in the field.
- Best growth occurred in general potting mix without added fertiliser.
- Plants grew equally well in tiles or tubes.
- Higher fertiliser and excess water reduced plant health.
- The site with well-draining soil and moderate tidal flushing, showed best in-situ growth (100mm/month).
- High-density planting (20 plants/m²) was most effective for rapid re-establishment.

Our vision - To implement an integrated, science-based approach to Landcare through supportive partnerships across our catchment.

Our Mission - To empower our community to build biodiverse ecosystems.



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