



INDIGENOUS GARDEN

Xanthorrhoea glauca (Grass Tree)

Indigenous name

Grass trees are also known as 'yacca', which is likely derived from a South Australian Aboriginal language, mostly likely Kurna.

Indigenous use

The grass tree is important to Aboriginal people across Australia. This resin is traditionally used as glue in spear-making and in patching up water containers. Flower spikes make fishing spear shafts and firesticks; the tough seed pods are used as cutting implements; and the flower's nectar forms a sweet, slightly fermented drink.



Description

Xanthorrhoea glauca has a rough, black trunk with narrow, linear and stiff leaves. Most species are extremely slow growing, with some studies finding that trunk height increases at about 0.8cm to 6cm per year. They do, however, live for a long time with estimates ranging from 350 -450 years.

Habitat

Grass trees are found in all Australian states and territories, especially on the east and west coast.