

# Vegetation diversity at Gracemere Lagoon

The wetland contains a variety of plants that have adapted to surviving in water logged conditions. Vegetation that can tolerate growing in salty conditions can also be found in the reserve.

The plants at Gracemere Lagoon provide food, shelter and breeding sites for many different animals.



Para grass (*Brachiaria mutica*) is an introduced plant with long runners that can grow 5m in one season. Not a desirable plant for a wetland as it out competes native plant species. This vigorous grass is managed with cattle grazing once the wetland dries out. This achieves the least amount of soil disturbance and allows time for native plants to seed.



Annual saltbush (*Atriplex muelleri*) is a low spreading herb with grey-green leaves and can indicate salinity. Can you spot the country that may have higher levels of salts in the soil?



Photo courtesy of State of Queensland DPIF

Short-fruit nardoo (*Marsilea hirsuta*) is a fern that looks like a four-leaf clover and grows in damp ground. Aborigines ground the fruits to obtain a yellow, starchy powder.



Photo courtesy John McCabe

Giant waterlily (*Nymphaea gigantea*) grows in still water up to 3m deep and has floating leaves. The perfumed flowers grow on long stalks and may be purple, blue, pink or white. Aborigines ate the roots, stems and seeds of this plant.



Photo courtesy State of Queensland DPIF

Water couch (*Paspalum paspalodes*) is a creeping native grass that can tolerate growing in moist conditions and shallow water. Look closely and you will find it growing throughout the reserve.

## Planting native vegetation

You will find plantings of River sheoak, Blue gum, Burdekin plum, Black tea-tree, Tuckeroo, Cabbage palm, Moreton bay ash, Black ironbox, White bauhinia, Leichhardt tree and other natives at the reserve to help restore lost vegetation.



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River sheoak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) is a medium sized tree that grows along watercourses and has roots that hold banks together. It has fine slender leaves that look scaly. On breezy days the foliage makes a gentle sighing sound.



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Blue gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) is a large tree with smooth bark that is shed in flakes. It has rough bark at the base of the trunk. The flowers are a major source of pollen and nectar for bees and birds. Hollows in these trees provide important habitat for wildlife.

Restoration project jointly supported by



For further information, please contact Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments Inc. ([www.frcc.org.au](http://www.frcc.org.au))