

Sedge and Rush Planting Guide for Creeks and Dams

Use this planting guide to determine where and what species are beneficial when revegetating in and around your creek or dam recovering from bushfire or other disturbance events.

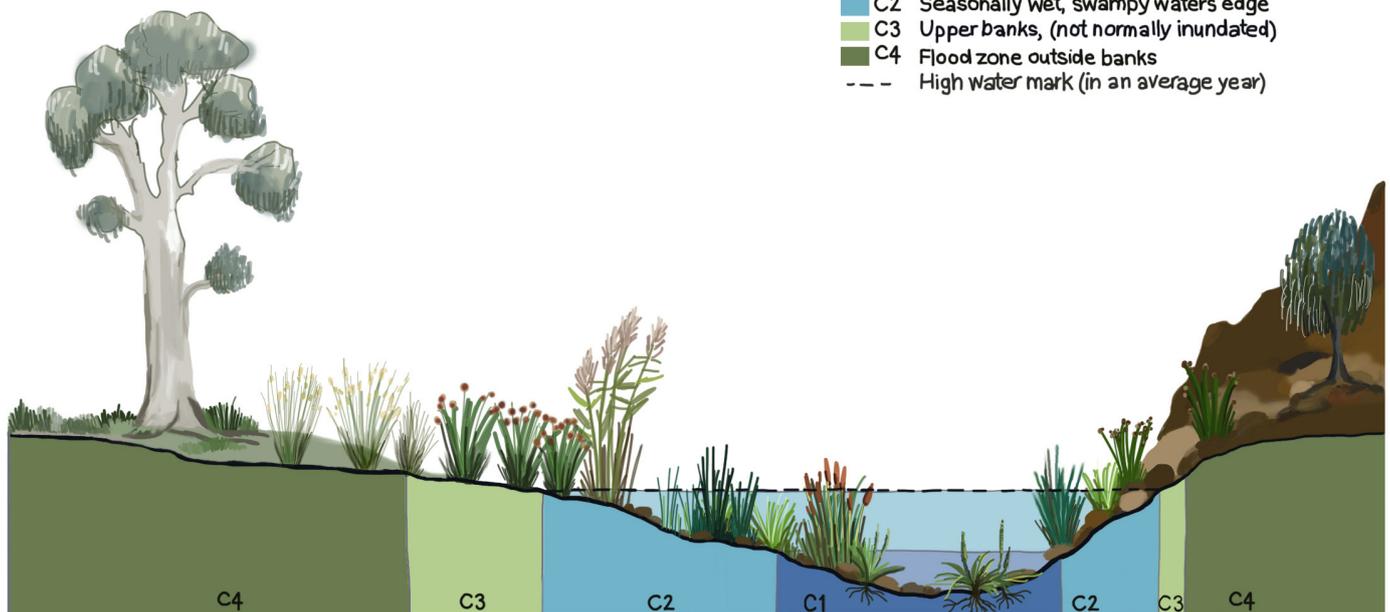
Sedges and Rushes are plants that have adapted to grow in and around creeks and dams. Some prefer to be continuously wet, while others have adapted to the natural seasonal wet and dry regimes.

These plants provide food and habitat for a wide range of aquatic species. They filter and bind nutrients and pollutants and trap eroded sediments after disturbance events like bushfire.

Their root mass helps stabilize the banks and their foliage (leaves and stems) reduce the impact and velocity of moving water.

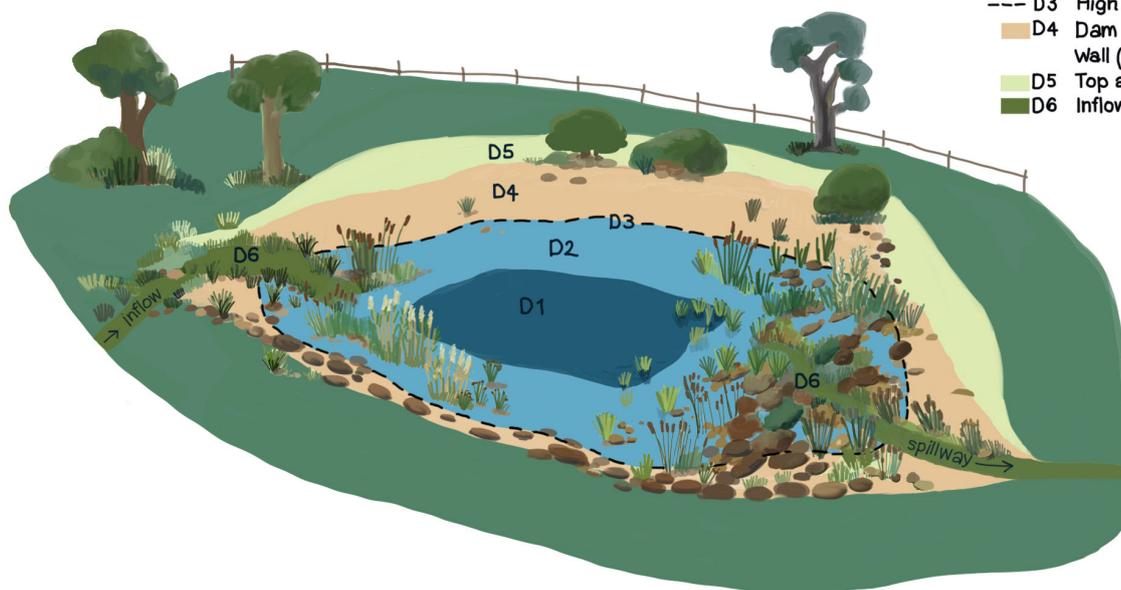
Restoring your creek or dam with native sedges and rushes will reduce the risks of erosion, improve biodiversity and water quality.

Creek Zones



- C1 Permanent water (at least 11 months of the year)
- C2 Seasonally wet, swampy water's edge
- C3 Upper banks, (not normally inundated)
- C4 Flood zone outside banks
- - - High water mark (in an average year)

Dam Zones



- D1 Permanent water
- D2 Seasonally drying shallows
- - - D3 High water mark
- D4 Dam banks and inside of dam-wall (above high water mark)
- D5 Top and back of dam wall
- D6 Inflow & spillway

Creek and Dam Species List

This list provides details of suitable species and where to plant them as identified in the Creek and Dam zones illustrations.

| Common name | Scientific name | Zone suitability (C1-C4, D1-D6) | Plant height |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Tussock Sedge | <i>Carex appressa</i> | C1, C2, C3, D1, D2, D3, D6 | up to 1.5m |
| Knotched Sedge | <i>Carex bichenoviana</i> | C2, C3, D3, D4, D5 | up to 0.5m |
| Short-stem Sedge | <i>Carex breviculmis</i> | C4, D4, D5 | up to 0.5m |
| Tassel Sedge | <i>Carex fascicularis</i> | C2, C3, D2, D3, D6 | up to 1m |
| Knob Sedge | <i>Carex inversa var. major</i> | C3, D3 | up to 0.5m |
| Rush Sedge | <i>Carex tereticaulis</i> | C3, C4, D3, D4, D5, D6 | up to 1m |
| Flecked Flat-sedge | <i>Cyperus gunnii</i> | C3, D3 | <1m |
| Spiny Flat-sedge | <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> | C3, C4, D3, D4, D5, D6 | up to 1m |
| Stiff Flat-sedge | <i>Cyperus vaginatus</i> | C3, C4, D4, D5 | 1.5m-2m |
| Common Spike-rush | <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> | C2, C3, D2, D3, D4 | up to 0.9m |
| Tall Spike-rush | <i>Eleocharis sphacelata*</i> | C1, C2, D1, D2 | 1m-2m |
| Knobby Club-rush | <i>Ficinia nodosa</i> | C3, C4, D3, D4, D5, D6 | up to 1m |
| Red-fruit Cutting-grass | <i>Gahnia sieberiana</i> | C2, C3, D2, D3, D5, D6 | up to 2m |
| Swamp Club-rush | <i>Isolepis inundata</i> | C2, C3, D2, D3, D4, D6 | up to 0.5m |
| Joint-leaf Rush | <i>Juncus holoschoenus</i> | C2, C3, D2, D3 | up to 1m |
| Sea Rush | <i>Juncus kraussii</i> | C2, C3, C4, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6 | up to 1.2m |
| Pale Rush | <i>Juncus pallidus</i> | C3, C4, D3, D4, D5 | up to 2m |
| Loose-flower Rush | <i>Juncus pauciflorus</i> | C2, C3, D2, D3, D6 | up to 1.2m |
| Broad Leaf Rush | <i>Juncus planifolius</i> | C1, C2, D2, D3, D6 | up to 0.6m |
| Rush Sedge | <i>Juncus sarophorus</i> | C2, C3, D2, D3, D6 | up to 1.8m |
| Finger Rush | <i>Juncus subsecundus</i> | C3, C4, D3, D4, D5 | up to 1m |
| Common Rush | <i>Juncus usitatus</i> | C3, D3 | up to 1.2m |
| Common Reed | <i>Phragmites australis*</i> | C1, C2 | up to 3m |
| Sharp-leaf Club-rush | <i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i> | C1, C2, C3, D1, D2, D3 | up to 1.5m |
| Narrow-leaf Bulrush | <i>Typha domingensis*</i> | C1, C2 | 1m-2m |

*These species should only be planted in large deep dams as they will overwhelm smaller dams

Plant the seedlings at least half a metre apart.

Plant the appropriate species above the high water mark in May/June/July and plant the appropriate species at and below the high water mark in Spring.

Do not plant trees or shrubs on the dam wall as the roots may eventually cause the dam to leak.

Invasive Species

Some plants that prefer these environments are introduced and can be very invasive. Controlling weeds before planting will reduce maintenance.



Photo K Thompson



Photo J Tann



Photo NZflora.info



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From left to right: Spiny rush (*Juncus acutus*) Tiny flat sedge (*Cyperus tenellus*) Umbrella sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*) Dense flat sedge (*Cyperus congestus*)

This project is being delivered by the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions. This Local Economic Recovery project is jointly funded by the South Australian and Australian Governments under the National Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.