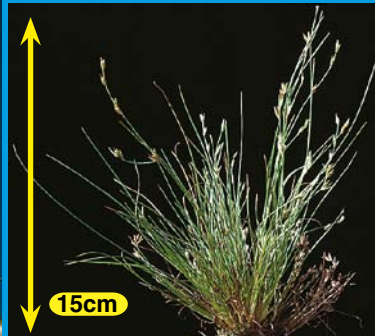


TOAD RUSH

Juncus bufonius

R2
RUSH



TOAD RUSH

Juncus bufonius



Family: Juncaceae.

Description: Tufted annual to about 20 cm tall. Leaves flat or channelled. Flowerheads consisting of 2–60 clusters spread out along the end of branches (see photo) each cluster with 1–4 flowers. Flowers spring to summer. Seeds numerous, 0.2–0.5 mm long, in a capsule.

Key features: Distinguished by annual tufted non-rhizomatous habit; stems without partitions and numerous flowerheads. An extremely variable plant.

Value: Grazed by stock, but is a short-lived annual when conditions become dry and provides little bulk. Common where there is little competition and is a weed of cultivation especially where conditions remain damp in winter and spring.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: Tolerant of moderate saline conditions (6–15 dS/m or 4000–10,000 ppm total dissolved salts). Tolerant of waterlogged soils although it is an annual that quickly flowers and matures in spring once soil dries with the onset of hot weather.

Notes: Cosmopolitan although some forms may be introduced, and further study may divide it into a number of taxa.

References: *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 4, 1993.

Flora of Victoria, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 2, 1994. *Plants of Western NSW*, Cunningham et al., 1981.

