



# *Xanthorrhoea semiplana*

## Grass Tree



(Hura, M, iNaturalist Australia)

**Form:** *Medium shrub*



(Murfet, D, Seeds of South Australia)

**Height:** *1 – 3 m*

**Spread:** *1 – 2 m*



(Murfet, D, Seeds of South Australia)

**Flowers:** *Cream*

**Type:** *Spikes*



Seeds attract Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos (pictured), and nectar attracts other birds. (Lawrenz, R, iNaturalist Australia)

**Flowering time:** *Spring, Winter*

**Ecological functions:**



**Soils:** *sand, clay or loam; acidic, alkaline or neutral*

**Germination rate:** *4 to 52 weeks*

**Seed collecting:** place material underneath the the flowering stalk and bend it over. Shake and many mature, black seeds will fall out. Near maturing fruits can be cut off and placed in warm area to fully dry. Ample seeds will fall out. Pass material through screens to clean fully, add insecticide dust before storing away.

**Seed treatment:** none

**Sowing requirements:** sprinkle seeds over propagating tray. Cover lightly to approximately 4 mm with soil or fine gravel. Keep moist and place in open, sunny area. Sow from early Spring or in Autumn. Requires good drainage.

**Position:** full sun

**Supplementary watering:** minimal

**Uses:** ornamental. Adapted to fires, trunk blackens but does not get damaged. Very slow growing. European settlers harvested the resinous gum to make varnishes and lacquers. Susceptible to and a good indicator of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. **Notes:** written approval required prior to planting in streets or roads. Do not plant closer than 2 m to any sewer main or connection.