



Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc

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Plant of the month: Streaked Arrow-grass *Triglochin striata*



Streaked Arrow-grass *Triglochin striata* is a soft, slender perennial herb, with leaves forming tufts along the rhizome or underground stem. The leaves grow to 30 cm and in those found locally they are rounded, although there is also a flat leaved form. The inflorescence is a spike to 18 cm long with 20-200 tiny greenish flowers, on an erect stem, from August to May. Flowers are followed by an ovoid fruit. At Venus Bay Streaked Arrow-grass is found in saltmarsh vegetation along Anderson Inlet. It is also found in wet open spaces in all Australian states and overseas.

Streaked Arrow-grass is semi aquatic in moist soil to shallow water. It grows in full or part sun and tolerates saline conditions. It makes an interesting plant in poorly drained soil, providing good habitat for frogs. Propagation is from seed or division.

The genus *Triglochin* belongs in the Juncaginaceae or water ribbon family. The name comes from the Greek, *treis*, three, and *glochis*, meaning the barb of an arrow, referring to the points of the carpels or female part of the flower. The species name *striata* means striped and refers to ridges on the fertile carpels, giving them a streaked appearance. For further information please visit FVBP website above.

Photo: Lorraine Norden.

