

COASTAL PINE AND WHITE OAK FOREST

The Norfolk Island Vegetation Mapping Project has described and mapped 14 distinct native plant communities on Norfolk Island. This series of fact sheets presents information about each of the communities.

Coastal Pine and White Oak Forest

Hardy open forest of Norfolk Island pines and white oaks that can be seen at Hundred Acres.

This community once occurred along the entire coast around the island, and on Nepean Island. To some extent, it is the extension of the Pine Ridge Forest found on inland ridges, both being rather drier than the adjacent vegetation and with *Araucaria heterophylla* prominent.

Hardwoods are generally uncommon but often found in inland sheltered places. The understorey is often quite open, with remaining intact examples indicating a herbaceous ground cover with scattered shrubs. Near the southern coast melky tree (*Excoecaria agallocha*) may occur, and rare Norfolk Island euphorbia (*Euphorbia norfolkiana*) and coastal coprosma (*Coprosma baueri*) appear to favour this forest.



Coastal Pine and White Oak Forest in Hundred Acre Reserve. Photo: Kevin Mills

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Plant community	Key species	Other species	Threatened species
Coastal Pine and White Oak Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norfolk Island pine (<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>) White oak (<i>Lagunaria patersonia</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beech (<i>Myrsine ralstoniae</i>) Native spinach (<i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i>) Coastal twofrond fern (<i>Asplenium difforme</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal coprosma (<i>Coprosma baueri</i>) Norfolk Island euphorbia (<i>Euphorbia norfolkiana</i>) Beech (<i>Myrsine ralstoniae</i>) Coastal senecio/ yellow daisy (<i>Senecio australis</i>)

Indicative species composition

The table above identifies the key species present (those species that are most characteristic of the plant community), other species (additional species that are likely to be present and assist in defining the community), and some of the threatened species present.

Further information

These fact sheets are based on the Norfolk Island Vegetation Mapping Project conducted by the Invasive Species Council between 2018 and 2020. Naomi Christian and Dr Kevin Mills conducted the vegetation surveys, and described and mapped the native plant communities. Two maps were produced – one showing the estimated distribution of native plant communities in 1750, and one showing their distribution in 2020.

The plant community maps are available at:

- www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/services/waste-and-environment/native-vegetation/native-vegetation-mapping-project
- www.invasives.org.au/niveg

There are 180 native plant species on the Norfolk Island Group, of which around 25% are endemic.

Forty-six species have been identified as threatened with

extinction. Describing and mapping the 14 native plant communities was done to help land managers protect and restore habitat for these threatened species and other wildlife of Norfolk Island.

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