

Grass Tree



By: Aastha and Seilina



What is firestick farming and why is it important to Aboriginal people?

Fire stick burning is a method of controlling vegetation by burning, used by some Australian Aboriginal peoples. Fire stick farming is a way of managing the environment Aboriginal communities have practiced for tens of thousands of years. It improves the health of the land and wildlife by setting cool burns, generally spot fires with smaller, more controlled flames during the early, cool dry season.



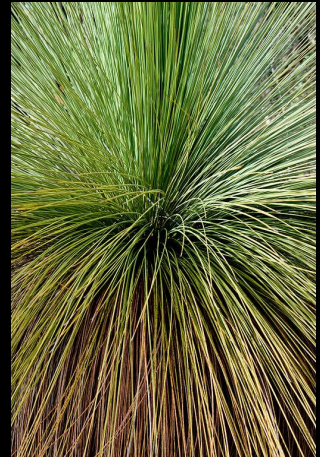
How has your native plant adapted to fire?

If a fire breaks out, the grass tree has a special physiological adaptation called thermal insulation that helps protect the plant. The grass tree holds its thick, dead leaves around its stem which serves as insulation, and helps to protect the plant against the heat of the fire.



Is that adaptation structural or behavioural?

If a fire breaks out, the grass tree has a special physiological adaptation called thermal insulation that helps protect the plant. The grass tree holds its thick, dead leaves around its stem which serves as insulation, and helps to protect the plant against the heat of the fire. So it is a structural adaptation.



Why is it important that Grass Tree has this adaptation?

Flowering is not dependent on fire, but it stimulates the process. The ability of grass trees to resprout after fire and quickly produce flowers makes them a vital life-line for fauna living in recently-burnt landscapes.

