



# JUNCUS EFFUSUS L.

Fam. Juncaceae

## DESCRIPTION

Aquatic and coarse bushy plant that develops stems up to 100-150 cm tall.

## HABITAT

Particularly widespread in the maritime areas of all continents, it lives near rivers and lakes, in clean running waters, but is often also found near marshes.

## DISTRIBUTION

The common rush is a sub-cosmopolitan species found in all Italian regions.

## FLOWERS

It flowers between May and July, producing small brown-green fan flowers.

## ROOTS

Underground rhizomes.

## LEAVES

Linear or cylindrical, they grow at the base of the stem.

## FRUITS

Brown fruits, decorative throughout the summer; they appear at the ends of the stems.

## STEM

Green, without leaves or with leaves wrapped around the stem, cylindrical and flexible, usually smooth or slightly furrowed longitudinally.

## INTERESTING FACTS

The cylindrical and semi-persistent, light-green stems and leaves are used in basketry (the name *Juncus* comes from the Latin term '*Jungere*': to join, tie). This plant is also used for phytodepuration. The specific name in Latin means 'scattered around, spread here and there'.

