

What is it like to live in a swamp?

Sunlight exposure

Top canopy trees make a dense cover, keeping lower levels in constant shade.

Soil

Plant action has developed a thick mud but it is low in nutrients and is 'anerobic' (no oxygen).

Stability

Dense plant growth provides shelter from wind

Complex root systems control erosion.

Shelter

Dense foliage provides shelter and homes for many creatures.

Water

The water table moves above and below ground level depending on rainfall

Plants need to tolerate submerged roots, as well as surviving dry periods

Water & soil can be very acidic (low pH).

Salinity

Sometimes brackish, depending on rainfall.

Occasional tidal inundation/invasion due to king tides and storm surges.

What plants and animals can you find in a swamp?

Plants

Paperbark Tea-tree *Melaleuca quinquenervia*

Bungwall fern *Blechnum indicum*

Cabbage palm *Livistonia australis*

Sandpaper Fig *Ficus coronata*

Native Ginger *Alpinia caerulea*

Blue Tongue *Melastoma affine*

Invertebrates

Razor Grinder Cicada *Henicopsaltria eydouxii*

Titan Stick Insect *Acrophylla titan*

Scorpion flies *Harpobittacus tillyardi*

Mud Dauber Wasp *Sceliphron laetum*

Bubble Pondsail *Austropeplea lessoni*

Vertebrates

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*

Figbird *Sphecotheres viridis*

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

Bearded dragon *Pogona barbata*

Carpet Python *Morelia spilota*

Lace Monitor *Varanus varius*

Squirrel Glider *Petaurus norfolcensis*

Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis*

Golden Swamp Wallaby *Wallabia bicolor welsbyi*

Black Flying fox *Pteropus alecto*