

Mangles Kangaroo Paw *Anigozanthos manglesii*



NATIVE PLANT NOTES

Description

The Red and Green Kangaroo Paw is a herbaceous, clump-forming perennial with long, green, strappy leaves, and flower stalks to 1.2 m high. The young flowers resemble the paws of a kangaroo, hence the common name.

Flowers

Plants produce multiple green and red, velvety flowers from late winter through spring. Colour variations are fairly common. Plants with green/yellow and combinations of purple, pink, orange and green flowers (called 'sports') may be found.

Growing conditions

Kangaroo Paws grow well in sands, sandy loams and gravelly soils, in either full sun or dappled shade. They also grow successfully in pots using a good quality native plant potting mix. They are best planted in autumn and winter months.

Watering

Water this plant at the base, taking care not to allow too much water to remain on the leaves as this may lead to a fungal infection, called 'ink spot', which blackens the leaves and reduces the vigour of the plant.

Pruning

Remove spent flowers by cutting right down to the base of the stem. To promote strong healthy growth the following year, Kangaroo Paws may be pruned right back to almost ground level in early autumn.

Fertiliser

Applications of slow release native blend 3–4 month fertiliser are best done at the time of planting.

Pests and diseases

If planting in the garden, Kangaroo Paws may need protection from snails and slugs, and to a lesser extent, caterpillars, particularly when young. They are susceptible to ink spot and rust fungus, which can be minimised by avoiding overhead watering.

Miscellaneous

Anigozanthos manglesii named after Robert Mangles, an English horticulturalist, is Western Australia's state floral emblem. Its natural habitat is shrub land and woodland/forests. In the home garden, plants are best treated as annuals or biennials.

Growing Kangaroo Paws in your garden will attract many nectar-loving birds including honeyeaters and wattle birds. The plants have long sturdy stems which support the weight of the birds while they cling to them and feed from the flowers.



Further Information

Gardening Advisory Service, a free service provided by Kings Park Volunteer Master Gardeners.
Phone: (08) 9480 3672 or Email: garden.advice@bgpa.wa.gov.au.

Pest and Diseases Information Service, Department of Agriculture and Food.
Freecall 1800 084 881 Email: info@agric.wa.gov.au or visit www.agric.wa.gov.au.