



KINGS PARK BLUE KANGAROO PAW

Quick Facts

Breeding program:

- The current Kings Park dedicated kangaroo paw breeding program began in 2007.
- Outside of Kings Park, controlled hybridization of kangaroo paws has been practiced for at least 40 years.
- The blue kangaroo paw was first sighted in 2013 as a result of a Kings Park cross in 2012.
- Pure kangaroo paw species are vulnerable to soil-borne diseases *Pythium* and *Phytophthora* and leaf diseases ink spot (*Alternaria anigozanthi*) and rust (*Puccinia haemodori*). The hardier Kings Park hybrids have the robust Evergreen Kangaroo Paw, *A. flavidus*, as a parent to combat disease susceptibility.
- The blue kangaroo paw was developed through the process of open pollination.
- Hybrid kangaroo paws can occur naturally, especially between closely related species.

Blue kangaroo paw:

- Blue kangaroo paws are mid-size for the species.
- Intensity of the blue flower colour is best expressed in full sun, with paler colours in part or full shade.
- The blue kangaroo paw is recommended for potting and can be multi-planted in a larger pot, or used as a border plant where soil pH is not too high.

GRABS: attributed to Senior Plant Breeder Digby Growns

'The discovery of the blue kangaroo paw was serendipitous. In 2013 a teal blue plant started flowering from a cross that we did in 2012. It had an absolute wow factor, and I knew we had to target this one.'

'True blue flowers are rare in native plants and the commercial development of the 'Masquerade' kangaroo paw required controlled cross-pollination between green and red-and-green varieties over years.'

'By breeding plants with unique and striking colours, Kings Park aims to encourage gardeners to fill their backyards with WA native plants.'

'Kangaroo paws are really special plants. They are endemic to Western Australia, which means they are known nowhere else. By planting them in your garden you provide a food source for native honey-eating birds and the plants also make a really colourful addition to your garden.'

'We're the only breeding program in the world that is focused on the environment.'

'Kings Park cultivars provide environmental benefits including reduced water and fertiliser needs and urban habitat for birds, insects, reptiles and small mammals.'

'There are more than 15,000 Western Australian species to choose from, so we work with commercial partners to identify a crop that will have mass appeal in horticultural markets while delivering on that important environmental benefit.'

'The plant market is like the fashion industry and it is all about what's new. By developing new varieties regularly we strengthen the market appeal of WA species.'

'The popularity of native plants continues to grow and Kings Park is an important advocate in the conversation.'



'Our plant development program has plans to release new varieties each year to continue to meet that demand and help promote and enhance community appreciation of our State's rich biodiversity.'