

Kingsmill's Mallee *Eucalyptus kingsmillii*



NATIVE PLANT NOTES

Description

This tree can be variable in form ranging from small and compact to an irregular-shaped taller form, 1.5–4 m high. It generally has a single trunk with rough lower bark but smooth upper branches. Its most attractive feature is its highly ornamental buds and fruit. This eucalypt is widespread in the Pilbara and Murchison regions, particularly the Newman district.

Flowers

The flowers are highly decorative, usually with pink to red buds that open to reveal attractive and contrasting cream to yellow flowers to 3 cm across. The buds and operculums (bud caps) are prominently-ridged and the pendulous flowers occur in multiple clusters in threes during winter and spring.

Growing conditions

This species has been found on a variety of soils but requires a well-drained site as it is often found on rocky rises and sandplains. Plant in late autumn or in winter in a full-sun position but not in very cold weather because it comes from the northern parts of the state.

Watering

Water well at the time of planting and monitor soil moisture until rains return the following winter. Give a deep watering twice a week during the first summer and autumn. This species is generally drought tolerant so it should not be necessary to give extra water unless there is a prolonged dry spell.

Pruning

Pruning may be required if branches become laden with fruit, in which case selective removal of fruit or light pruning after flowering will help.

Fertiliser

Apply slow-release 8-9 month native fertiliser at the time of planting and, if required, annually.

Pests and diseases

This species can be susceptible to scale.

Miscellaneous

This tree is named in honour of Western Australian politician, W. Kingsmill, who was active in forestry matters. While north of Leonora in 1918 he found the showy mallee and collected the type specimen from which the species was described and named.



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.