



Kangaroo Paw

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Kangaroo Paws — this Western Australian plant earned its name by the supposed resemblance of its cluster of unopened flowers to a kangaroo's paw. It is long and slender, like the forepaw of a kangaroo.



Family information



- Family: Haemodoraceae
- Genus: Anigozanthos
- (an-ih-go-ZAN-thos) with 14 genera and 102 known species
- Growth Habits:
 - Perennial, however, it is advisable to regard it as short-lived, 3-5 years
 - Likes full sun
 - Prefers low to moderate amounts of water
 - Needs well-draining soil

More about growth habits



- ▶ Leaves - mainly basal with a few shorter leaves at the stems
- ▶ Stems - sturdy, branched or unbranched which is a natural perch for birds. A single flower blooms on each stem.
- ▶ Flower – velvety, hairy, bisexual, with an inferior ovary. The fuzzy flowers can irritate the skin.
- ▶ Flowers bloom after a year and between late winter and early summer
- ▶ Flowers resemble furry little “paws” on elongated stems that grow from 20 inches to nearly 6 feet tall,

Kangaroo Paws story continues



- Great cut flowers but no fragrance
- Stigma – slightly enlarged
- Stamens -6
- Propagates easily from seed or rhizome, most flower best after a fire.
- The shape and the position of the pollen-bearing anthers enable pollen to deposit on the head of the feeding birds.

More details



- There are a variety of colors available – green, red, purple, yellow and multi.
- Hummingbirds like it because it's easy to land on.
- Leaves are unremarkable so plant it behind a low plant so the kangaroo paw flowers pop above the foliage.

Pests and disease



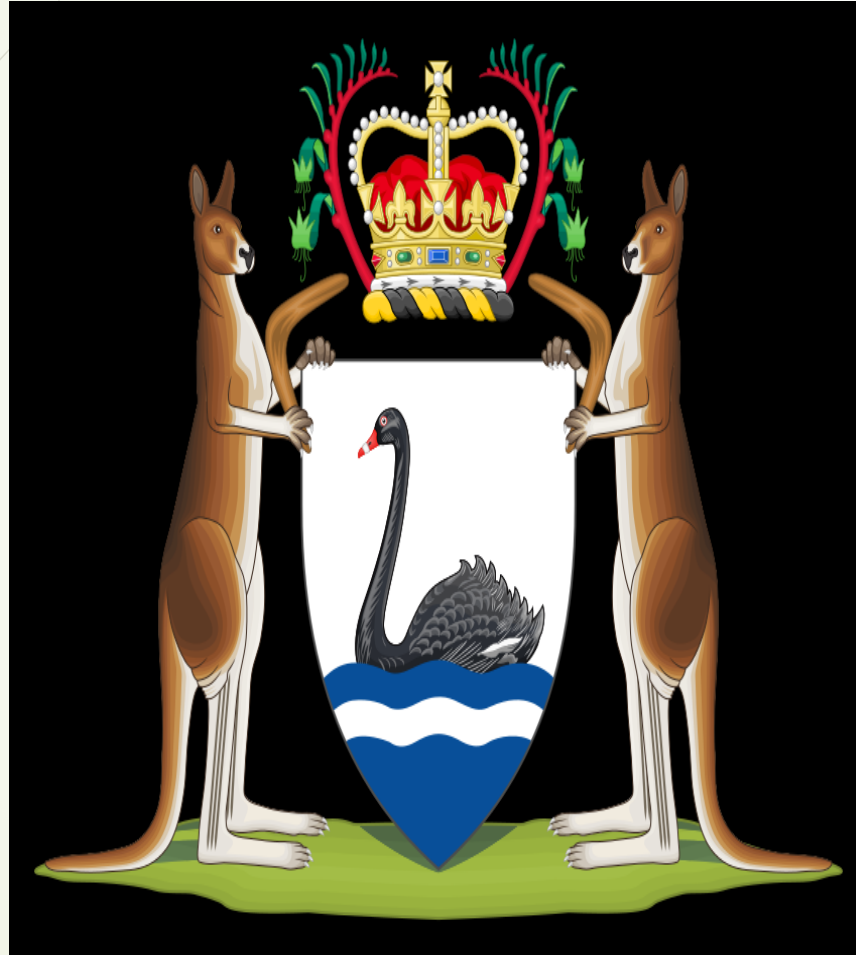
- Pests: snails and slugs attack it so they should be removed.
- Disease: Fungus that causes ink disease which appears as large black blotches on the leaves. Common in cool moist climates.
- Black ink is difficult to treat
- To prevent the spread of the fungus spores, the effected leaves should be removed and burned. If it's an extreme case, apply the fungicide, copper oxychloride, to slow the disease.

Growing Kangaroo Paws in San Diego



- If you have:
- A sunny spot
- Well-draining, slightly acidic soil
- They do well in pots if they are about an inch tall before potting
- Water freely in spring and summer
- Apply a balanced fertilizer monthly
- Keep almost dry in winter since it's dormant.
- Cut back to about 10 cm in late winter
- You can grow this plant!

More facts about Kangaroo Paws



- Mangle's Kangaroo Paw is the floral emblem of Western Australia
- The Mangle's Kangaroo Paw has traditionally been used in Aboriginal medicines.
- This photo is the Coat of Arms of Western Australia with the Kangaroo animal and Kangaroo Paw plant represented in it.
- Interest in Kangaroo Paws started with the English in 1808 by Robert Mangles.
- It was first noted in Bailey's Cyclopedia of American Horticulture in 1902 and offered in CA catalogs in 1911.