



Anigozanthos spp. "Kangaroo Paw"

Growing Guide

Temperature: "Kangaroo Paw" grows and flower best at temperatures of 20-25° C day / 10-15° C night. Reduction of the night temperature is recommended to achieve bright flower colours and strong (hard) foliage. An additional benefit is heating cost savings. An established practice in Europe is to decrease the night temperature to 10-12° C for 10 hours during winter and 6-8 hours during summer. Control of the greenhouse temperature is the most important factor for year round flowering of high quality plants.

Day length: There has been no significant difference in the time to flowering or the number of flower stems between grown under 14 hour days were a colour shade brighter compared to those of 10 hour plants however this was probably due to cumulative light rather than a day length effect.

Light intensity: "Kangaroo Paw" is best grown at medium to high light intensities of 50,000 – 80,000 lux. They will grow and flower at 14,000 lux. However a temperature ratio of 20° C day / 15° C night must be maintained at this low light level to obtain compact plants with bright flower colours. High temperatures in combination with low light levels will contribute to soft elongated foliage and faded flowers.

Humidity: Maintain humidity levels below 70%-75% to produce well hardened plants.

Potting Mix: Following are two recommended potting mixes. Mix B has a slightly lower air-filled porosity than A (18% compared to 25 %) and will not dry out as quickly. The sand component of Mix B helps re-wetting.

	Mix A	Mix B
Peat Moss	50 %	25 %
Pinebark fines	25 %	25 %
Perlite (Hort' grade)	25 %	25 %
Coarse sand	25 %	25 %

Add the following fertilisers per cubic metre of potting mix:

	Rate / m ³
Nutricote/Osmocote NPK 8-9 month	
Slow release 16:4.4:12.3	4.0 kg
Micromax	0.25 kg
Iron Sulphate	0.6 kg
Lime	1.1 kg Mix A or 0.5 kg Mix B
Dolomite	1.1 kg Mix A or 0.5 kg Mix B
Adjust the pH to 6.0 – 6.5	

"Kangaroo Paws" are sensitive to phosphorus applied in the form of granular superphosphate. Rates exceeding 1 kg of single superphosphate per cubic metre can cause blackening on the leaves. It is recommended that no superphosphate is added to the potting mix.

Pot Sizes:

The "Kangaroo Paw" (20-30 cm height) can be grown in pots of 9-14 cm diameter. 12 cm is considered an optimum size for visual balance. **It is important to plant the crown of the young plant 5 mm above the potting mix level to avoid crown rots.**

Pot spacing:

Minimal pot spacing is necessary, for example the pot spacing for finishing 14 cm pots is at 17-18 cm centres and 20 cm pots at 23-24 cm centres.

Irrigation:

Overhead sprinklers and individual drippers for each pot have been successful methods of irrigation. Ebb and flow is also ideal. With "Kangaroo Paw" it is best to let the potting mix dry out partially before rewetting. This treatment avoids a wet boggy potting mix, encourages growth and keeps the plants hard. "Kangaroo Paws" will not tolerate waterlogged potting mixes for extended periods as this situation produces soft foliage and predisposes the plant to root diseases.

***Pest and Diseases
Control:***

Slugs and snails – use Methiocarb as a spray or pellet.
Thrips - use a recommended insecticide.

"Ink Disease" – shows symptoms of blackening on the leaves; at the tip, on the edge or mid section. Black leaf marking indicates that the plant has suffered stress or less commonly, has been infected with *Alternaria* spp. of fungi. Factors which can cause black leaf marking include fertiliser imbalances, waterlogging of the potting mix, superphosphate in the potting mix, high humidity >75% and insect damage. If *Alternaria* spp. are suspected or found then spray with Mancozeb.

Please note that above instructions are only a guide and results depend upon the specific conditions of each producer.