November 2026

Plant of the month

Angiozanthos species



Common Name: Kangaroo Paw

Scientific Name: *Angiozanthos* species incl. *A. manglesii*

Family: Haemodoraceae

Genus: Anigozanthos comes from the Greek words anisos, meaning unequal and anthos, meaning flower, referring to the unequal perianth lobes of the flowers.

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Kangaroo Paws are one of Australia's most iconic plants. *Anigozanthos manglesii* (Red and Green Kangaroo Paw) is the official floral emblem of Western Australia. The colour and form of kangaroo paws make them one of the most popular Australian native plants for the home garden and make wonderful cut flowers. They are exported to many parts of the globe and are grown commercially in the USA, Israel and Japan.

The long flower stalks are pollinated by honey eaters, their height 'advertising' the presence of nectar and provide a perch for visiting birds.

The shape and position of the flowers and the pollen-bearing anthers ensures that pollen deposited on the head of feeding birds is species specific.

Anigozanthos species are commonly propagated from seed that are planted during spring and summer. In general kangaroo paws grow best in well-drained soils in a sunny position. Well composted organic matter will improve growth. The young plants usually flower after a year. Clumps may also be divided in early summer.

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Distribution

Anigozanthos and the closely related Black Kangaroo Paw, *Macropidia fulginosa* occur naturally only in the south-west of Western Australia.

Native Habitat

Occurring in a variety of habitats and soil types but common on sandy soils and loams, gravelly or poor soils. They occur in eucalypt forests, scrublands, heaths, roadsides, and seasonally moist areas e.g., river banks, swamps, and shallow water margins, varying by species.

Description

They grow from rhizomes that produce long strappy leaves, dark green in colour. They have velvety flowers shaped like a kangaroo's paw.

Flowers

Tubular flowers with six-petals, covered in soft velvet hairs, arranged in claw-like clusters on upright vertical stems, appear in spring and summer. The flowers come in a wide range of vibrant shades including red, green, yellow, orange, pink, cream, and bicolored combinations. The size, flower-stalk height and colour of the flowers varies between species, with many new forms due to deliberate hybridisation.

Fruit

The fruit is a type of dry, dehiscent fruit (capsule) that splits open lengthwise down the middle of each chamber (locule).

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