



Top Gardening  
Tips For Everyday  
People



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Hello and thank you for checking out the Aussie Green Thumb guide to the humble Kangaroo Paw, one of my favourite all time plants!

In this bonus report I will look at 4 different varieties of Kangaroo Paw, as well as detail my pruning instructions.

## Red and Green Kangaroo Paw



Genus: *Anigozanthos*

Species: *manglesii*

Common Name: Red & Green Kangaroo Paw

Flower Colour: Red & Green

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Strap Leaf/Grass

Flowering: More Spring & Winter

The *Anigozanthos manglesii* is happiest in a position that receives full sun.

When in good conditions this variety really thrives and will grow to have flowering stems up to 1 metre in height.

This plant will usually last for a few flowering seasons, normally up to 3 or 4, but is not a bad idea to replace after the 2<sup>nd</sup> flowering season.

The bold red and green coloured flower really helps it stand out when mixed with other varieties but can also look absolutely fantastic if many of the same variety are planted together.

I once saw a great example of this just outside Kings Park in Western Australia. A whole batch, no less than 100 plants I would say, were planted close together on an island in the road and really made quite an impression on passing motorists.

A tip with any Kangaroo Paw is to remove the stems after flowering as this promotes new growth and speeds up the next batch of flowers.

## Orange Gem



Genus: *Anigozanthos*

Species: *flavidus*

Common Name: Orange

Flower Colour: Orange/Red

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Strap Leaf/Grass

Flowering: Summer & Spring

The *Anigozanthos flavidus* actually comes in a few different sub-species but the best sub-species boasts beautiful orangey red flowers, so that is the variety that I am recommending. T

This variety is generally smaller than *manglesii*, normally growing no higher than 50cm so if you are planting it together with that variety it is best to be placed on the outside.

This variety makes for an absolutely fantastic border plant as well, especially along the side of a path from your front gate to your front door.

Attracts birds, in particular the honey eater. I have grown this variety and have always been very happy with the results.

The fact that it also has a slightly different flowering season to the *manglesii* means if planted together (perhaps with some other varieties as well) you are increasing the chances of having at least a few of your Kangaroo Paws flowering at any given time of the year!

## Green Machine



Genus: Anigozanthos

Species: *viridis*

Common Name: Green Machine

Flower Colour: Green

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Strap Leaf/Grass

Flowering: Summer & Spring

This variety is another of the larger in the Anigozanthos family, with flowering stems up to 1m high.

Obviously the main difference between this species and the other featured is it has green flowers as well as foliage. However what is great about this variety is the green flower is a much lighter green colour than the stems.

The best use I have seen for this variety is when placed between two other varieties. For example I once saw a patch of Red and Green Kangaroo paws clumped together, surrounded by the *viridis* Kangaroo paws and then another, smaller variety with yellow flowers.

The light green flowers of the *viridis* really helped to create an amazing visual contrast between the Red & Green and Yellow flowering varieties.

Having said this I would say the *viridis* doesn't look as good by itself, so it is best when planted amongst other varieties.

## Yellow Gem



Genus: Anigozanthos

Species:

Common Name: Yellow Gem

Flower Colour: Yellow

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Strap Leaf/Grass

Flowering: Summer & Spring

According to [Lullfitz.com.au](http://Lullfitz.com.au) this variety is “a hybrid kangaroo paw bred by Mr S Haynes and released in the early 1970’s”.

I myself have not grown this variety so am recommending it based on the picture alone!

From its description it certainly sounds like one a very tall growing variety, with flowering stems as large as 1.8m tall! This is very tall for a Kangaroo Paw!

Like most Kangaroo Paws it will grow best in a full sun position. There really is not much more I can say other than give this variety a try. I have only discovered which grow well and which don't by trying, so why not try a new variety this month?

## **How to prune Kangaroo Paws**

Kangaroo Paws, or plants of the genus *Anigozanthos*, are an absolute delight to grow in your garden but to get the absolute best from them they must be pruned. Kangaroo Paws mostly flower during Spring and Summer, through some varieties start early in late winter. They grow great big, long stems and the flowers emerge at the top.

### **Pruning when in flower**

There are a few good times that you can prune Kangaroo paws and the first is during flowering. My first tip in pruning Kangaroo Paws is to make sure you cut the flower stems right off as soon as the flowers are starting to look less appealing.

This pruning before the flowers have died entirely encourages the plant to produce new stems and flower again, giving you a second or sometimes if you are lucky even a third showing during a flowering season.

Clip the stems off at the base of the plant and as with most pruning try and cut at a 45 degree angle. This reduces the risk of disease and pests causing trouble.

Doing this for every flower stem will both increase the health of the plant and also give you great flowers to boast about.

### **Pruning at the end of the flowering season**

When your Kangaroo Paw has finished flowering (usually mid to late summer or early autumn) it is a very good idea to give it a solid prune.

The good thing about Kangaroo Paws is that most of what is important for it's growth is under the ground.

The biggest tip for the post-flower pruning is to cut any growth with any 'browness' right out. Don't just cut the tip off, take the whole lot off right down to the base.

I once read somewhere of a gardener who likes to use a lawn mower to 'prune' his Kangaroo Paws. Though I do not myself advocate this practice...it does likely work!

I like to be a little more tender and delicate in my pruning, but the principle still stands, pruning Kangaroo Paws hard at the end of their flowering season will bring best results in subsequent seasons.

Just try to leave the very new/very green shoots or around 1/3rd of the plant where possible.

So there you have it. Kangaroo Paws are a pleasure to grow and they are pretty much brown thumb proof.

Pruning Kangaroo Paws is not terribly difficult because you really would struggle to be too harsh in pruning them.

Good luck and I hope this helps!