Kangaroo Fern

Microsorum diversifolium



Kangaroo Fern in full
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 3 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Kangaroo Paw Fern, Zealandia pustulata

Description:

A wonderful and interesting selection featuring large deep green and glossy fronds resembling kangaroo paws; thriving in high humidity and evenly moist soil; a great addition to garden beds, hanging baskets or containers in warmer cliimates



Kangaroo Fern in full
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Kangaroo Fern is primarily valued in the garden for its spreading and trailing habit of growth. Its attractive large glossy ferny compound leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Kangaroo Fern is an herbaceous fern with a trailing habit of growth, eventually spilling over the edges of hanging baskets and containers. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep, and can be pruned at anytime. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Kangaroo Fern is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Kangaroo Fern will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 3 feet apart. It tends to be leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and should be underplanted with lower-growing perennials. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in partial shade to full shade. Keep it well away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Kangaroo Fern is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. Because of its trailing habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.