FAMILY TREE NURSERY

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: (annual)

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

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 annual 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 in full
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

8424 Farley St.
Overland Park, KS 66212
913.642.6503

7036 Nieman
Shawnee, KS 66203
913.631.6121

830 W Liberty Dr.
Liberty, MO 64068
816.781.0001

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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. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in partial shade to shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. 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.