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SPECIES	<i>Themeda australis</i>
COMMON NAME	Kangaroo Grass
ORIGIN	Australia, New South Wales, New Guinea, Africa, Asia and the Pacific
DESIGN USE	Alternative for lawn grass, ornamental in rockeries



HEIGHT

1.5m

SPREAD

0.5m

HABIT

Very variable erect, tufted grass

FORM

A perennial, forming leafy tussocks, with culms to 1-1.75 m. Leaf- sheaths overlapping below, shorter than the internodes on the upper parts of the culms. Panicle narrow, may or may not nod, brownish; fertile spikelet, brown- hairy from the callus, the glumes brown to straw coloured, shining, short pubescent;



FLOWERS

Flower heads are attractive, green tinged purplish, turning brown at maturity.

FLOWERING PERIOD

Spring and Summer

FRUIT

Fruit normally a dry indehiscent caryopsis with thin pericarp firmly adherent to seed, seen during December – March depending on rainfall.

CLIMATIC TOLERANCES

Altitude range is near sea-level to 2 750 m and it grows over a wide rainfall range, about 450-1 250 mm. Clumps survive long drought periods and produce rapid new growth. It is tolerant of frost.

HORTICULTURE

It grows in full sun to part shade on sandy to clay soils and needs little water once established. Kangaroo Grass can be grown from seed or by division of older clumps. This plant does not suffer any significant pest or disease problems.

REFERENCES

<http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au>

<http://www.anbg.gov.au>

<http://www.fao.org>



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