

## Kingia australis – Grass Girl

An unusual plant that grows rapidly in its early stages producing an attractive spread of leaves to 1m. If cut back to ground level at this stage it will soon produce new leaves and usually send up a flower spike. The black trunk takes many years to develop.

### Propagation

Seeds benefit from a period cold stratification at 4°C for 8 - 12 weeks. To stratify, place the seed in a sealed plastic bag with a handful of lightly damp sand and place in the crisper section of your refrigerator. Check fortnightly as some seed may germinate during stratification. Maintain the media in a lightly damp state.

**WHEN TO SOW** – In warm areas or in a glasshouse sow seeds at any time. In frost prone areas sow when danger of frost is over. Sow to a depth of 3mm and place the seed in a warm dark place to germinate.

**WHERE TO GROW** – Full sun to semi shade in any soil type in either the open garden, a rockery or large tub.

**SOWING** – Fill 10cm pots with moist sandy soil, wet and compress. Lay  $\frac{3}{8}$  seeds flat in each pot and cover lightly. Water gently and cover with clear polythene until germination starts in 3-6 weeks. Keep soil moist place in warm shady position, protect from snails and slugs.

Plant out at 10cm, water in well, water weekly when dry for quicker growth. Plants respond to small amounts of low-phosphate or slow release fertiliser.