



The “FIRE

Grass trees are a true icon of the Aussie bush.



SPEAR”

HOW TO PLANT GRASS TREES

With early development in the evolutionary stakes for flowering plants they are practically a living fossil. They are amongst the oldest living plants on a worldwide scale, and can often survive for many hundreds of years in the wild.

Fire Spears have been saved from land clearing sites and extracted under a harvesting license (issued by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Parks and Wildlife Service) where they would have otherwise been demolished.

Grass Trees make a spectacular garden feature that will live for generations with very little water and maintenance.

Detailed Description

The plants mostly grow to 2m tall but occasionally up to 4.5m. They develop a thick trunk with rough, corky bark formed by a mass of old leaf bases held together by natural resins. The foliage is comprised of a dense rosette of narrow, arching, needle-like leaves 60-90cm long.

Fast growing “spears” of tiny white to cream, bird-attracting flowers grow from 0.6m-2m long. They occur between May and December every 2-3 years, although this can be influenced by fire and rain in the wild.

Lizards, insects, birds and butterflies are attracted to the plants mass of foliage and flower stalk. It is also documented that indigenous Australians made extensive use of the plant, collecting the flower’s nectar, making fire, eating the soft bases of the young leaves and using its resin as an adhesive.



Taking care in the planting and establishment of your grass tree will result in plants that require minimal maintenance and water over the long term.

Position: Preferably an open sunny/semi shaded position

Soil: Grass trees must be planted in extremely well drained, neutral to alkaline soils. Should your soil not be free draining it is recommended to that a raised garden bed with free draining soil mix be formed in which to plant the grass tree.

Planting: The soil from which the grass tree has been excavated contains a bacteria which protects these plants from pest and disease. In order to maintain your grass tree in a healthy condition it is important to keep rootball intact. To minimize disturbance of the root ball, first cut the base from the pot, place the tree in its desired location and pull the pot over the head of the tree.

Ensure that the top of the root ball is at ground level.

Water in and compact the soil around the root ball making sure that there are no air pockets and that it is firmly planted.

Maintenance: Water once to twice weekly when necessary to help establish the plant making sure that the root ball, developing roots and surrounding soil get thoroughly wet.

Trim 1/3 of the foliage should it become brown and remove spent flowers at the base. After flowering, the older leaves can sometimes droop to make way for the new. This is not a loss in plant vigour but a natural process. Remove any garden debris or fallen leaf litter from the head of the plant to help prevent any fungal infestation.

Apply a slow release fertilizer mix for Australian native plants (with low phosphorus (P) content, and trace elements included).

Apply pesticides to foliage as required.