



Resendiz Brothers Protea Growers LLC

www.resendizbrothers.com

Spring/Summer 2009 Newsletter

Kangaroo Paws



An unusual botanical from the land down under

There are few flowers that offer as much vivid color, distinctive form and unusual texture as kangaroo paws. Anigozanthos (pronounced an-ih-go-zan-thos) or more commonly known as "K-Paws" produce clusters of woolly tubular blossoms that do indeed resemble kangaroo toes. The size of the flowers, stem length and color vary depending on the species and cultivar.

These are truly colorful kangaroo toes, ranging in color from black and green to Christmas red, orange, yellow, burgundy with over 40 varieties now on the market. They can grow to heights of five feet or more allowing them to survive well in the forest where they can thrust their colorful flowers above the undergrowth, advertising nectar to the birds that pollinate them. In addition, K-Paws have a sturdy stem, which is a natural perch and makes them ideal flowers for birds. The Kangaroo Paw's shape and the position of the pollen-bearing anthers enable pollen to deposit on the head of the feeding birds. Pollen is transferred from flower to flower as the honeyeaters or wattlebirds feast. Interestingly enough, these flowers have no fragrance but all flying creatures love them anyway .

(continued on page 2)



Spring/Summer 2009 News



Kangaroo Paws (continued from page 1)

In their native homeland of Australia, these K-Paws appear most prolifically from October to December, however, here in California the season runs from April to July. There are some varieties available year round on the world market because in addition to Australia and the United States they are also grown for the floral trade in Columbia, Africa, Israel and Japan.

The decorative value of the kangaroo paw lies in the color and texture of these flowers. They grow in clusters and are slender rather than voluminous. For this reason many designers use K-Paws as line material. Some varieties are fuller and more branchy than others, with a structure like hat trees, adding further interest to the long stems and fingerlike flowers.

During the hot summer months Kangaroo Paws make wonderful landscaping plants. Many varieties are drought tolerant and are favored in areas like Southern California where water is in short supply. The secret lies in their underground rhizomes, which hold moisture and allow the plant to survive during dry spells. Even the popular black and green *Macropidia fuliginosa* can survive for years in dry sand

plains outside of Perth, Australia.

The word *Anigozanthos* is derived from two greek words meaning "an open flower". However, it is recommended that K-Paws be purchased with at least one flower in each cluster beginning to open. This indicates a sufficient state of maturity for optimum stem strength and color. Keep in mind that their stem height means they must draw moisture through a long straw. Any blockage can easily result in wilting. Once the kangaroo paws have been purchased, they should be removed from packaging immediately upon arrival, and remove all leaves that would fall below the water line. Trim the stem with a sharp knife or pruner, removing two inches from the end of each stem. Dip or place the stems into a hydration solution, then place them into a clean vase or bucket filled with properly prepared nutrient solution. Store them in a floral cooler at 36F to 38F. Provide good air circulation, high humidity and light. If cared for properly,

K-Paws will last ten to 25 days and will dry well in the vase gradually, or they can be hung upside down in a well-ventilated area for about two weeks.

Did you know? The fuzzy Kangaroo Paw flowers can irritate the skin? Yes, a final note of caution: after handling the stems of K-Paws, your hand may itch. It is not that these flowers are toxic, it's simply that they are covered with fine hairs. Wearing long sleeves, or gloves, or both, may be a necessary precaution if you have extra sensitive skin.



Resendiz Brother's Kangaroo Paw Fields



Resendiz Brother's Kangaroo Paw Fields



Macropidia growing wild in sand plain near Perth, Australia



Kings Park—Perth, Australia

Spring/Summer 2009 News

Boronia—Did you know?

Hybrid Boronias are grown in a rainbow of colors ranging from: hot pink to purple, brown, green, yellow and white and have interesting names like: 'Purple Jared' (brilliant purple flowers), 'Aussie Rose' (rose pink flowers) and 'Lipstick' (lollypop pink flowers). A genus of some 95 Australian species named in honor of Francesco Borone, an Italian plant collector.



Hot Pink, Purple and White Boronias

Boronia are small, woody, evergreen shrubs from the tribe Boronieae in the family Rutaceae. They are at their best in the cooler areas of Southern Western Australia, the Dandenongs and Mornington Peninsula in Victoria, Tasmania and the Blue Mountains of New

South Wales where they are often grow in open forests and woodlands.

The plant has tiny, wiry stems and green needle-like leaves. In early Spring lovely bell-shaped flowers with four petals begin to form and bloom.

Boronia is renowned for its sweet fragrance and aromatic foliage, especially *B. megastigma* (with bells of



Boronia Megastigma

brown). The flowers of *Boronia megastigma* are often collected for flavor and fragrance use. Unfortunately, they are difficult to propagate and grow in cultivation. All species require excellent drainage and part shade.

Boronias survive well outdoors in California and other similar, mild climates. Otherwise, they may be grown in cool greenhouses. Many species are

small shrubs and can be grown as pot plants, where they may get the special attention they demand. In fact, it was as pot plants that boronias were first widely cultivated in Europe shortly after their discovery.

Boronias are generally long-lasting as cut flowers, and cutting the flower stems benefits the plants, as they need pruning back after blooming to prolong life and improve bushiness.



Boronia Megastigma "Lutea"

Kangaroo Paws Continued from page 2....

Some Interesting Facts About Kangaroo Paw *Manglesii*

- Kangaroo Paw *Manglesii* is the floral emblem of Western Australia, where it is most prevalent.
- This red and green Kangaroo Paw (also called Parrott Paws) is easily distinguished by its large paw-shaped flowers.
- The Kangaroo Paw *Manglesii* has traditionally been used in Aboriginal medicines.

Kangaroo Paws pictured on pages 1 & 2:

1. *Macropidia Fuliginosa*
2. Rufus
3. Yellow Gem
4. *Manglesii*
5. Tequila Sunrise
6. Red Cross
7. Pink Joy
8. Kangaroo Assorted
9. Christmas Red
10. Burgundy
11. Flavidus

Making exotics a way of life!



Also Offering:
Grevilleas, Filler Flowers,
Berzelia and Bouquets



Resendiz Brothers Protea Growers LLC
www.resendizbrothers.com
760-731-3305



As seen in March 2009 Produce News

-Mel's Field Notes-



July 2009 marks the 10 year anniversary for Resendiz Brothers Protea Growers! I am happy to say it has been a wonderful ten years for the Company and for me personally. We have been blessed with some of the world's best customers – customers who have allowed this company to grow, expand and become the great farm it is today. So, my first order of business here is to say "Thank You" for contributing to the success of Resendiz Brothers Protea Growers – we truly appreciate your business and your friendship!



Waxflower & Leucadendron Fields

As I look back on the winter and spring of 2009 I have mixed emotions. Yes, it has been a very difficult season for Resendiz Brothers, as it has been for many companies. This recession has had an effect on almost every type of business, community and family. It is easy to find yourself focusing on the negative, possibly slowing down or even worse shifting into reverse. For Resendiz Brothers Protea Growers, I have had another plan – to remain optimistic, to continue to grow and expand – to focus on what we can accomplish each and every day even if it is a minimal accomplishment.

Here in Southern California water continues to be our number one concern.



Pincushion Tango

In early December, we had to reevaluate our existing agricultural water program and decide if we wanted to "stay put" with the possibility of increase cut backs (we were already at 30%) or to elect another program which would increase water costs but limited the cut back to 13%. Our number one priority has always been to produce quality flowers and



Protea Andrea

without sufficient water we could jeopardize quality. Needless to say, I felt it was best to select the new program allowing for less cut backs with higher water costs.

In return, we have focused on water conservation, ensuring that water lines are checked regularly for brakes, drippers are only watering "living plants", and we are looking for more natural water sources – like drilling more wells.

Despite the tough economy, we continue to invest in new plants. Plants that will one day produce new and unusual varieties of protea, pincushions, leucadendron and filler flowers. All existing plants are being look at closely for quality, production and customer demand. Those that do not meet the standards will be replaced with the new varieties. So far, the future looks exciting – I'm sure you'll agree!

During the next few months as things are a bit slower paced, we plan to fine tune our quality control procedures, up-grade farm equipment and employee tools. In addition, there are many new and innovative floral industry topics to review and consider – New Transportation Models, Box Standardization, Bar Coding (GTIN), etc.... This industry certainly continues to grow and bloom!

Be safe - enjoy your summer, and once again – Thanks for a great 10 years!



Berzelia and Inca Gold

Mel



Resendiz Brothers Protea Growers LLC

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Fall 2009 Newsletter

Banksia



6

Banksia is named in honor of Sir Joseph Banks, who collected the first banksia specimens at Botany Bay during Captain Cook's 1770 voyage. They are truly one of the best known and spectacular genera in the Australian plant family Proteaceae with nearly 170 species. These Australian wildflowers grow naturally in and around most of Australia's coastal regions. Some varieties have growth habits similar to ground cover, others like shrubs and some trees. They can now be found in a wide variety of landscapes. Banksia flowers are



7

generally shaped like a cylinder, large acorn or bottle brush and range in size from 4" to 12". Colors range from silvery green through brilliant gold, yellows and orange to violet and deep red shades. Banksia foliage varies greatly from small and piney to long and narrow to large, leathery and with deep serrated teeth. Unlike most of southern Australian wildflowers the main flush of flowers come not in spring but in summer, autumn and winter. Not only are these flowers colorful and full of texture, they offer a long-lasting performance as a single stemmed presentation or combined with other traditional flowers.

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4



5



Fall 2009 Newsletter

Banksia continued from page 1:



8

1. **Banksia Occidentalis:** Red Swamp Banksias, Waterbush or Indian Sumer. Occidentalis' flower spikes are a lovely golden to glossy red tone and approximately 3" to 4" long with a soft, wispy dark green foliage.



13

2. **Banksia Baxteri:** Birds Nest Banksia or Baxter's Banksia. This small, lime-green banksia opens to form a globe-shaped flower atop a long stem. It is a popular long-lasting cut flower that also dries well. Baxteri has unique foliage that is deeply serrated, and whether used fresh or dried it's great for floral work.

3. **Banksia Menziesii:** Menzies' Banksia, Firewood Banksia or "Raspberry Frost". A gorgeous cut flower which has a large, acorn-shaped, multi-colored head and is produced over autumn and winter on long stems.

4. **Banksia Sceptum:** Sceptre Banksia or Popcorn Banksia. This wonderful banksia has flower spikes, up to 12" long, that are a creamy- yellow tone and have the appearance of giant candles. Sceptum's flowering period is from late spring to early summer.

5. **Banksia Ashbyii:** Ashby's Banksia. This species has large (10" to 12") cylindrical blooms in a soft apricot-orange, which are available late winter through spring. Ashbyii has an excellent vase-life and they dry beautifully.

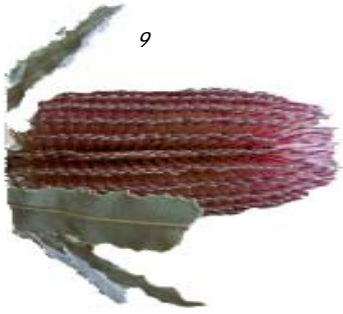
6. **Banksia Robur:** Swamp Banksia, Broad-Leaved Banksia. This distinctive variety has very large, leathery leaves. The flowers are a deep blue-green at the bud stage before opening to a greenish-yellow color. They bloom over the summer through the winter and can be up to 12" long.

7. **Banksia Integrifolia:** Coast Banksia, White Honeysuckle. The most common eastern Australian variety. Integrifolia has cylindrical flower spikes that are 3" to 4" long when fully developed. The silvery-green blooms are produced from autumn through winter into spring. When the integrifolia bloom dies it develops a wonderful brown seed pod which is wonderful in dried arrangements.

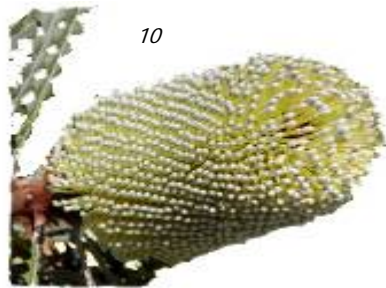
8. **Banksia Prionotes:** Acorn Banksia, Orange Banksia, Golden Banksia, or "Orange Frost". Prionotes produces large acorn-shaped flower spikes of rich orange during the autumn and winter months. These wonderful flowers can develop to a length of 8" to 10" and are quite often found on very long stems.

9. **Banksia Menziesii:** This is the same Banksia as described in number 3, however, this bloom is available when it is found in a more advance stage of development. The burgundy tone becomes much more prominent.

10. **Banksia Speciosa:** Showy Banksia, Rickrack Banksia, Green Banksia or "Mint Julep". Speciosa has a large, acorn-shaped flower spike with a silver-grey bud in the early stages, that develops into a lovely lime-green spike in its mature stage. These banksia blooms are often found on very long stems that are ready for harvest in summer and autumn.



9



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12



14

What's Hot...

1. Grevillea Ivanhoe

An SAF 2007 Ribbon Winner, Ivanhoe is an Australian Native foliage and filler flower when it blooms in the early spring. Ivanhoe has deeply divided green, jagged foliage with bronze colored tips. This foliage makes an excellent florists' backing material and is extremely long lasting. Great for those Fall arrangements.



2. Persimmon Branches

Fruited branches in designs are "hot" and extremely popular this fall. At this time of the year persimmons are about baseball size and a glorious rusty-orange color. Branches are now available in 5 stem bunches.



3. Protea Red Baron

(P. Obtusifolia x P. Magnifica) a beautiful rich fire-engine red protea with large dark green leaves – great

for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Valentine's Day. Harvest time starts in October and finishes in February.



3. Leucadendron Inca Gold

(L. Laureolum x L. Salignum) has a medium-sized bract with fall-like tones of green and yellow combined with red streaks and red stems. This Leucadendron is a great

long lasting, autumn foliage.



Banksia continued from page 2

11. **Banksia Victoriae:** Woolly Orange Banksia. Victoriae is another species with orange and woolly white acorn-shaped flower spikes when partly open. Its flower spikes are terminal and set in a rosette of long grayish leaves.
12. **Banksia Coccinea:** Albany banksias, Scarlet Banksia, or Waratah Banksia. Coccinea is one of the spectacular and deservedly popular banksias varieties. It has a small cylindrical bloom that ranges in color from bright orange through rich scarlet to almost crimson. Blooms are produced on long stems from late winter to early summer with a spring peak.
13. **Banksia tinted Assorted Colors:** Assorted Banksia tinted red, orange and purple. Great for arrangements or colorful in bouquets.
14. **Banksia Bouquet—3 Stems:** Resendiz Brother's popular—3 Stem Banksia bouquet.

*Unique, Exotic
Protea in Autumn*

Your California Grower & Supplier of
Proteaceae,
Grevilleae,
Filler Flowers,
Kangaroo Paw,
Berzelia and
Specialty Bouquets

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As seen in *The Produce News* September, 2009

We Love your Ideas!

Do you have a suggestion about something you'd like to learn about in our newsletter? If so, just email us at: ismaelresendiz@msn.com

-Mel's Field Notes-



Mel & Protea Ceres

Well, here it is already Autumn! The summer months passed much too rapidly. Just as we seemed to get started cleaning, propagating, replanting, and repairing irrigation, it was time to shift gears and focus on our fall Protea harvest.

In the past, it has often been a bit challenging trying to market beautiful "Pink Protea" at a time when everyone seems to be asking for flowers in fall colors – orange, peach and yellow tones. Let me tell you, I would be a very Rich Flower Farmer if I had a silver dollar, and I do not mean the eucalyptus type, for every time I have heard Diana say, "If I could only convince Mother Nature to switch our seasons. We would have more red and pink protea in the spring; and more yellow, peach and orange pincushion in the fall. Then, we'd finally have our colors right." I would be the first to say that miracles happen around here all the time, but we are still waiting for Diana to have that important conversation.

Getting back to protea, "Pink Protea" in Autumn, we started to gather information about color trends for Fall and Winter 2009-10. We found that colors like "raptor rose" and "warm olive" were **hot** fall colors – at least the Pantone Color Trends Chart says so. Hence, our slogan for fall became – *Exotic, Unique, Protea in Autumn*. We created a simple Hand-Tied Bouquet which incorporated our favorite fall flowers and foliage – Protea Susara, Fiesta, Pink Mink, Red Baron, Repen and Pink Ice, as well as Banksia Occidentalis, Australian Pine, Leucadendron Jester, Inca Gold and Jubilee Crown, and Grevillea Flowers. It was simple, yet exotic and unique. Hopefully dispelling any myth that protea can be difficult to work with – a simple Hand-Tied Bouquet, who would have thought and we were thrilled!

Our fall marketing campaign was a success. We are absolutely delighted with the orders and requests that we received for our protea. It has been extremely exciting to see how many of our local bouquet-makers incorporated our fall harvest into their gorgeous bouquets.

So, my cowboy hat is off to them and all of you, who offered these unique and exotic Cape Treasures to all our your special and unique customers.

We are once again starting to shift our gears into what we call "flower season" at least around here. Our traditional Resendiz Brother's calendar is in its final stages, and we are preparing a more detailed photo layout of the wonderful waxflower varieties we will be offering in the up-coming months. Yes, filler flower season is right around the corner and we are getting prepared!

I am hoping that the rest of your fall season will be one of your best and that the up-coming Thanksgiving Holiday will give you much to be thankful for, as we are each and every day that we have the blessing to work with and be surrounded by our beautiful flowers and foliage.



Protea Field



*From all of us
here at Resendiz
Brothers Protea Growers,*

*Happy
Thanksgiving!*

Mel



Diana & the Crew gathering freshly harvested protea

Hand-Tied Protea Bouquet