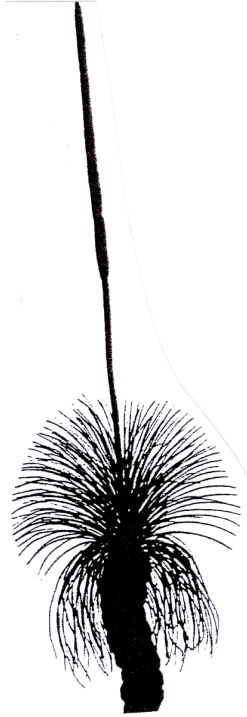




Fact Sheet

XANTHORRHOEA SPECIES:



There are 28 species of grasstrees in Australia. They have a typically black trunk as the result of bush fires hence the name "black boy".

SURVIVAL: Only a small number of reputable companies successfully transplant grasstrees from the wild. Be wary as they need to be carefully dug and cared for. It can be difficult to see whether a tree has been correctly transplanted for many months or even years because death is delayed as its considerable food storage reserves are only slowly depleted. Our trees are loved and respected and kept for approximately 12 months until they display new top growth and roots before made available to the nursery.

AGE: In natural habitat the trunk will grow approximately 9mm per year. Therefore, a tree with a metre long trunk could be one hundred years old. In cultivation, growth can be much faster and trees are also more likely to grow multiple heads.

SHAPE: Xanthorrhoeas are typically single straight trunked specimens that grow up to 5 metres tall. Minor or major changes in trunk direction are usually caused by the production of flowers or accidents, e.g. another tree falling onto the apex or being blown over during a storm and then eventually growing in a vertical direction again. Every tree is unique and has years of history reflected in its growth.

RESIN: Your tree may have hard resin balls near its base. During bush fires, the intense heat melts the natural resin in the bark and this oozes out at the base. One hundred years ago this resin was extracted and used in gunpowder, paint and as a source of phenols.

PLANTING OUT: It is important that the site is properly prepared to enable good drainage. Do not dig a watery grave for your tree by planting it in a hole in clay sub soils. Plant in a raised bed rather than poorly drained soil. Carefully place your tree in a hole larger than the root ball. Cut the pot away from the root ball rather than knocking the plant out. Do not disturb the roots. Back fill and water in well. In good soil, fertiliser is not required. However, native plant food can add an extra boost for the plant and can do no harm.

FLOWERING: In their natural habitat, it is rare for a Xanthorrhoea under 600mm to produce a flower spike. When transplanted into good soil they often flower more prolifically. As the flower spike was the active growth point of the tree, it is natural for the tree to remain dormant and not produce new leaves until a dormant bud is activated. This may be months or even years. During this period, DO NOT PANIC. Do not over water or over fertilise, just be patient. Your tree has already survived a long time and may not be in hurry to get along with living just now. We have observed that burning the old growth at this stage can encourage your tree if you wish.

Please note - the above information was derived from various sources. For additional information, please speak to one of our qualified sales staff..

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This Fact Sheet is meant as a guide only. For more information or horticultural advice speak to one of our qualified staff.