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Sturt's Desert Pea

Swainsona formosa

South Australian Floral Emblem

An Australian plant famous for its distinctive blood-red leaf-like flowers, each with a bulbous black centre. It is one of Australia's best known wildflowers. It is native to the arid regions of central and north-western Australia, and its range extends into all mainland Australian states with the exception of Victoria

Generally considered to be a short-lived annual, it has been known to persist as a perennial if conditions are favorable. If the roots are left undisturbed, flowering may resume in the next season. It is well adapted to life as a desert plant. The small seeds have a long viability, and can germinate after many years. Seeds have a hard seed coat, which protects them from harsh arid environments until the next rainfall, but inhibits germination in normal domestic environments. Growers can overcome this dormancy by scarifying (nicking the seed coat to allow water to permeate).

Kimseed can scarify seed with its specially designed scarifier, please ask for details.



Once germinated, seedlings quickly establish a deep taproot, vital for desert survival. This means that if domestically grown, they should either be planted in their intended final location or transplanted as soon as possible after germination. They do not tolerate disturbance of their roots but, once established in well-drained soil, require little and infrequent watering, and can withstand extreme heat and sunshine, as well as light frosts.

“Kimseed has fresh stock of Sturt's Desert Pea, we urge you to get your orders in quick”

Once it's gone its gone !!

Price on asking. Wholesale minimum purchase 250grams