**Birds of Paradise**

*Strelitzia reginae*, also known as the Bird of Paradise and the crane flower, is a very unique plant with a flower resembling birds in flight. The Birds of Paradise plant makes a very popular landscaping plant for this reason, as well as it’s hardiness, form and highly structural foliage. The leaf blades are 6 inches wide and 18 inches long, banana-like, large and evergreen. A clump forming plant which produces large and dramatic evergreen, banana like leaves and long, straight flower stems culminating with a boat like bract at the top.

The plant grows to a height of 1.8 metres and over 1 metre in width. Each birds of paradise flower is made up of three upright orange sepals and three vivid blue petals, making a striking show during the Spring – Summer flowering period. Because of the banana shaped leaves and other plant characteristics, birds of paradise were classified in the banana family. The blooms are fantastic for use in floral arrangements because of their unique and magnificent flower display.

Growing birds of paradise The soil around the birds of paradise plant needs to be kept moist all spring and summer but should be aloud to dry out slightly between watering in autumn and winter. When birds of paradise plants are young and actively growing, repot them every spring so that they have plenty of room to grow, and try to avoid temperatures below 10°C. Bird of Paradise can be grown in large pots or in the garden. For best results plant in compost rich, well drained soil and apply a side dressing of well rotted manure or complete plant food in spring. Shade from direct sun in summer and keep moist in warm weather but dry in winter.

A beautiful, hardy landscape plant that will add a fantastic sculptural element to your garden. Head in to SoilWorx and have a look at our range of Strelitzia – from 140mm pots right up to advanced plants, you will find the perfect bird for your garden.