Knitting Nature
Bird of paradise instructions

Materials:
• 25 g green cotton dk yarn
• small amounts of orange cotton dk yarn
• small amounts of purple cotton dk yarn
• pair of 3.5 mm knitting needles
• two paper straws
• darning needle

Abbreviations
k, knit; p, purl; st(s), stitch(es);
m, make; sl, slip stitch;
psso, pass the slipped stitch over;
tog, together.
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**Stem (make 2)**
Using green yarn, cast on 6 sts.
Work in stocking stitch until piece measures the length of the straw (approximately 20 cm).

**Flower petals**
Using purple yarn, cast on 20 sts.
Work 4 rows in stocking stitch.
Cast off.

Using orange yarn, cast on 16 sts.
Work 4 rows in stocking stitch.
Cast off.

Using orange yarn, cast on 24 sts.
Work 4 rows in stocking stitch.
Cast off.

**To make up flower petals**
Fold each rectangle in half lengthwise with the purl side out.
Stitch closed to form a point.
Layer the pieces large, medium and small.
Fold in half and secure in place with a few stitches.

Created for Kew by textile artist Clare Sams.
For more information about this plant visit kew.org/read-and-watch/royal-flower-bauer
**Flower head**

Using green yarn, cast on 3 sts.
Row 1 (right side): k1, p1, k1.
Row 2: P
Row 3: K1, m1, p1, m1, k1 (5 sts).
Row 4 (and every wrong side row): P
Row 5: K2, m1, p1, m1, k2 (7 sts).
Row 7: K3, m1, p1, m1, k3 (9 sts).
Cast off.

Wrap piece around the straw and stitch closed along the edges.

Rows 8–14: Continue increasing this way until there are 15 stitches, ending on a p row.
Row 15: K7, p1, k7.
Row 16: P

Rows 17–22: Repeat rows 15 and 16 three times. on a purl row.
Row 23: K5, sl1, k1, psso, p1, k2tog, k5 (13 sts).
Row 24 and every wrong side row: P
Row 25: K4, sl1, k1, psso, p1, k2tog, k4. (11 sts).
Rows 26–31: Continue decreasing this way until 5 stitches remain, ending on a p row.
Row 33: Sl1, k1, psso, p1 (3 sts).
Pull yarn and thread end through remaining stitches and secure.

**To make up flower head**

Fold flower head in half lengthwise, knit side outer.
Stitch closed from one end to halfway.
Insert folded end of flower petals into the seam opening.
Attach the flower head securely to the end of the stem.

**Leaf**

Using green yarn, cast on 3 sts.
Row 1: (right side) K1, p1, k1.
Row 2: P
Row 3: K1, m1, p1, m1, k1 (5 sts).
Row 4 (and every wrong side row): P
Row 5: K2, m1, p1, m1, k2 (7 sts).
Row 7: K3, m1, p1, m1, k3 (9 sts).
Row 8–18: Continue increasing this way until there are 19 stitches on needle, ending on a p row
Row 19: K9, p1, k9.
Row 20: P
Rows 21–32: repeat rows 19–20 six times.
Row 33: K7, sl1, k1, psso, p1, k2tog, k7. 17 sts.
Row 34 and every wrong side row: P
Row 35: K6, sl1, k1, psso, p1, k2tog, k6. 15 sts.
Rows 36–46: Continue decreasing this way on every right-side row until 5 sts remain, ending on a p row.
Row 47: Sl1, k1, psso, p1 (3 sts).
Cut end and pull through remaining stitches, draw together and secure.

Attach the leaf to the stem securely.