

## Palm Trees

### Planting Palms

The best time to transplant palms is in spring and early summer, when soil temperatures are warming. The root ball of the palm must be handled carefully and should not be rolled. We suggest fashioning a sling in which to cradle the root ball during transport to the planting site. Bare-root specimens should be planted as soon as possible; if it is not possible to do so, place the palm out of direct sunlight and keep the root ball and trunk moist. If the root ball is wrapped in black plastic, cut an X through the plastic at the bottom of the root ball, place the root ball in the planting hole, then remove the plastic. If there is a burlap around the root ball, you do not have to remove it because it is biodegradable.

Although some palms are well adapted to wet soils, standing water can have adverse effects on newly planted palms; select and amend your planting site according to the requirements of the palm you are planting. If possible, select a site protected from north winds. If necessary, construct a berm on which to plant the palm to assist in drainage. Amending soil with a coarse grade compost and sand can be useful, but it will not solve long-term problems such as inappropriate site or plant selection.

The depth of the planting hole will be, ideally, twice the width of the root ball; it should only be a deep enough that the top of the root ball is level with the existing soil line. After transplanting, the root ball and backfill soil should remain evenly moist for the first three to five months. It is not recommended to fertilize the palm until it is established; this is most often indicated by the emergence of new leaves.

The following is a list of varieties that we regularly offer at the nursery:

#### ***Acoelorrhaphe wrightii* Silver Saw Palmetto, Paurotis Palm**

Full sun to part shade; does best in full sun. Slow-growing to 15 ft. Hardy to 20°F. Native to southern Florida, coastal Mexico and Central America. Naturally occurs in moist and swampy areas. Ideal soil consists of one-half granite gravel and on-half light compost.

#### ***Brahea armata* Mexican Blue Palm**

Full sun. Small to medium sized palm, moderately slow grower to 20-50 ft. Probably the "bluest" of all palms. Native to Baja California and Mexico. Hardy/Evergreen to 15F; Zones 8-11. Drought and cold tolerant. Prefers well drained soil, and needs little water when established. Grows well in alkaline soils. Propagate by seed, which show erratic germination from 1-10 months. 3/4" fruits are edible.

#### ***Butia capitata* Pindo Palm**

Full sun to part shade; slow growing to 10-20 ft.; thick, hairy trunk w/ stiff, arching bluish-gray-green foliage; likes moisture, but needs well-drained soil; may need protected site in areas where winter temperatures can drop below 20°F., more winter hardy in better drained soils; native to Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay.

#### ***Chamaerops humilis* Mediterranean Fan Palm**

Full sun to part shade; can tolerate heavy, clay soil, but more winter hardy on dry, rocky or sandy soil; has survived temperatures as low as 6° F.; grows up to 20 ft. tall and wide; slowly develops clumps by root suckering.

#### ***Chamaerops humilis* var. *cerifera* Silver Mediterranean Fan Palm**

A naturally occurring form of *Chamaerops humilis* with waxy, silvery leaves. Grows more slowly than *C. humilis*, but is as cold-hardy and drought tolerant. Grows up to 20ft. tall and wide. Slowly develops clumps by root suckering.

***Cycas revoluta* Sago Palm**

Part shade. Cycad NOT palm. Very slow growing to 10-12 ft tall and 8-10 ft wide. Foliage is hardy to about 20° F, plant to at least 15F. Easy to grow. Prefers well-drained soil with moderate water. Native to various areas of Southern Japan.

***Livistona chinensis* Chinese Fan Palm**

Part shade; slow-growing to 30-40 ft. (15 ft. at 40 yrs. old); leaves hardy to about 22° F, plant to at least 15F.. Looks best with regular watering; good for containers.

***Livistona decipiens* Ribbon Fan / Fountain Palm**

Full sun. Hardy to about 18° F. moderately growing to 30 ft. Adapts well to many soils except wet/soggy types. Native to Eastern coast of Australia. Costopalme leaf structure means leaf is a cross between palmate and pinnate which gives it a soft fringing or weeping look.

***Phoenix canariensis* Canary Island Date Palm**

Best in full sun. Tolerates heat and dry conditions. Trunk can reach 40 – 50ft. Large, fast-growing palm. Hardy to 15° F.

***Phoenix dactylifera* Date Palm**

Full sun; Can reach up to 50 ft. or more); suckers from base; leaves die at temperatures of about 15° F., but plants have survived below 10° F.; palm of Palm Springs, Ca. Golf courses and movie oases; native to Middle East.

***Phoenix pusilla* Ceylon Date Palm**

Native to Sri Lanka. Best in full sun. Trunks are usually no taller than 10ft. Usually cold hardy in Austin to mid to high 20s.

***Phoenix roebelenii* Pygmy Date Palm**

Best in shade to part shade, but not suited to dark indoor spaces; slow-growing to about 6 ft.; hardy to zone 9B (about 25-30° F.); good container specimen.

***Rhaphidophyllum hystrix* Needle Palm**

Sun or shade; very slow-growing to maybe 8 ft.; native to southeastern U. S.; prefers heavy, wet soils; hardy to as low as -6° F., prized, rare plant, not commonly found in production.

***Sabal domingensis* Hispaniola Palmetto**

Full sun. Moderately fast-growing to 60ft. Hardy to about 18F. Native to Hispaniola and eastern Cuba. Adapts well to many conditions. Prefers light, sandy soils, good drainage and bright, sunny or exposed areas. Does well in coastal conditions. Fertilize twice yearly in spring and summer for faster growth.

***Sabal minor* Dwarf Palmetto**

**Texas native.** Sun or shade; trunkless, slow-growing, usually under 6 ft. (grown in standing water, may form trunk and grow as high as 20 ft.); prefers heavy, wet soils, tolerates drought somewhat after established; remains evergreen to 0° F., can survive colder temperatures.

***Sabal texana* (*S. mexicana*) Texas or Mexican Palm, Palma de Micharos**

**Texas native.** Sun to part shade; slow-growing to maybe 45 ft. in 20-35 yrs.; trunk starts growing when tree about 15 ft. tall and 10 yrs. old; cold-hardy to at least 10° F.

***Sabal uresana* Blue Sabal**

Full sun. Moderately growing to 25-30 ft. Hardy/Evergreen to 25° F; Zone 8. Native to Northern Mexico. Tolerates hot sun and dry wind conditions. Needs good drainage to thrive, though known to adapt well to various soil types. More sun = more blue color.

***Trachycarpus fortunei* Windmill Palm**

Sun or shade; fastest growing of hardy palms, to 20 ft. (sometimes more); adapts to soggy soils well; cold-hardy to below 15° F.

***Washingtonia filifera* California Fan Palm**

Sun to part shade; fast-growing to 60 ft.; prefers light, sandy soils, but adapts well to heavy clay, too; native to deserts of Southwestern U. S., growing near springs and other moist spots, so prefers moisture with good drainage but will tolerate aridity; hardy to 10° F. or below, will burn below 15F.

***Zamia maritima* (or *Z. furfuracea*) Cardboard Palm**

Part shade. Cycad NOT palm. Relatively fast growing compared to other cycads (which are known to be very slow growing) up to 4 ft tall and 6 ft wide. Hardy to 28° F; needs protection from frost. Easy to grow. Prefers well-drained soil with regular to moderate water. Native to Gulf Coast of Mexico and Central America. Makes good indoor, container or bonsai plant.

