



THE FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS  
A Pinellas County Government Program

# Palm Garden

## Self-Guided Tour



## Palm Tree Facts

The Arecaceae family of plants includes over 2,500 species of wonderfully diverse palm trees found throughout the world, from the desert to the rainforest.

- **Palms are used around the world** for food and drink, shelter, medicine, clothing, furniture, household items, and money.
- **Palm trees have two different types of leaves:** palmate and pinnate. Palmate leaves, like hands, grow in a fan at the end of a stem. Pinnate leaves are like feathers, growing all along either side of a stem.
- **Palms are not actually trees;** they do not produce wood or bark, nor can they heal from wounds. Never attach anything to a palm that will damage the trunk like nails or spikes.
- **Cycads are closely related to palms;** for example, although Sagos resemble palms they are actually cycads. Other examples of cycads seen in the Florida Botanical Gardens include Cardboard plants and the native Coontie.

Want to learn more about palms and their care in the home landscape?  
[edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_palm\\_care](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_care)



### Proper Palm Pruning:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tt76hXRHB0A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tt76hXRHB0A)



**Florida's widely varied environment includes four different growing zones:**

Check your zone: <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>

### Ornamental Palms of Central Florida:

[edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep020](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep020)

### Ornamental Palms of South Florida:

[edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep009](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep009)

### UF/IFAS Palm Fact Sheets:

[hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/palm-fact.shtml](http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/palm-fact.shtml)



**Florida Botanical Gardens**  
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## Discover the Natural Wonder

The Palm Garden is a collection of palms of all shapes and sizes. It includes a variety of uncommon palms capable of growing in our West Central Florida climate.

Take a stroll through this beautiful garden and enjoy the wonderful and varied collection of palms, both native and non-native.

*Palm species labeled for easy reference.*



UF IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

FLORIDA MASTER GARDENER

Pinellas County





# Palm Species

## At the Florida Botanical Gardens Palm Garden

### American Oil Palm

*Attalea cohune*  
Native to Mexico/Central America. Single trunked and slow growing. Economic value is from its seed oil and thatch.  
**Zones 9-11    60'↑ 35'↔**



### Areca Palm

*Dypsis lutescens*  
Native to Madagascar. Also known as yellow bamboo palm or golden cane palm. Common in cultivation and frequently seen as a house plant.  
**Zones 10-11    30'↑ 20'↔**



### Arikury Palm

*Syagrus schizophylla*  
Native to South America. A small slow growing single-trunked palm. Bears leaf bases that can be seen as a lattice on the trunk. Good outdoor container specimen.  
**Zones 10-11    12'↑ 6'↔**



### Bottle Palm

*Hyophorbe lagenicaulis*  
Native to the Mascarene Islands. The shape of its stem resembles a bottle. Sparse crown of fronds – an ideal container specimen.  
**Zones 10 -11    12'↑ 6'↔**



### Cabada Palm

*Dypsis cabadae*  
Origin: Madagascar. Attractive clumping palm. Trunks have whitish rings. Trunks and crown shafts are green.  
**Zones 10 -11    30'↑ 15'↔**

### Caranday Palm

*Copernicia alba*  
Native to South America. Handsome, tall and solitary single-trunked palm. The stiff fronds are covered with wax giving them a bluish color. Its wax is used for lipstick, candles and car polish.  
**Zones 9-11    30'↑ 10'↔**



### Cat Palm

*Chamaedorea cataractarum*  
Native to Mexico along cascading waterfalls. Clumping palm with rich glossy green leaves. Good border plant.  
**Zones 10b-11    8'↑ 8'↔**



### Christmas Palm

*Adonidia merrillii*  
Native to the Philippines. Single-trunked palm with a seasonal display of red fruit. Often planted in clumps. A popular landscape plant since it is suited to small areas.  
**Zones 10b-11    25'↑ 8'↔**



### Clustering Fishtail

*Caryota mitis*  
Native to India and Southeast Asia. Clumping palm that produces a dense mass in the landscape. Suitable for warm temperate areas in partial shade. Also known as the Burmese Fishtail Palm.  
**Zones 10b-11    25'↑ 15'↔**



### Coconut Malayan Palm\*

*Cocos nucifera*  
Origin: Unknown. Single-trunked palms with an elegant crown of pinnate fronds and large edible fruit. Found in nearly every tropical location.  
**Zones 10b-11    50'↑ 25'↔**

### Cretan Date Palm

*Phoenix theophrasti*  
Native to Greece, Ceylon and Turkey. Clumping palm. In Crete, leaves are used in Palm Sunday celebrations.  
**Zones 8-10    50'↑ 20'↔**



### Dwarf Sugar Palm

*Arenga engleri*  
Native to Taiwan and Ryukyu Islands. Clustering palm with sugary fruit that can cause severe allergic reactions in the skin. Pinnate leaves are blue-green with a fibrous matted trunk.  
**Zones 8b-11    10'↑ 15'↔**



### European Fan Palm

*Chamaerops humilis*  
Native to Southern Europe. Cold tolerant requiring good drainage and full sun. Very widespread in cultivation.  
**Zones 8-11    15'↑ 20'↔**



### Fishtail Palm

*Caryota urens*  
Native to India and Asia. Grown for its sugary sap (toddy). Also called Wine Palm, Toddy Palm. Single-trunked with a wide crown of arching bipinnate fronds. Good for wet tropical and subtropical locations.  
**Zones 9-10    25'↑ 15'↔**



### Flame Thrower Palm

*Chambeyronia macrocarpa*  
Native to New Caledonia. Throws two to three new leaves a year with colors ranging from deep burgundy to intense pink.  
**Zones 9-11    25'↑ 12'↔**

### Foxtail Palm

*Wodyetia bifurcata*  
Native to Australia. The fluffy leaves resemble the tail of a fox. Named after an Aboriginal bushman by the name of Wodyeti.  
**Zones 10-11    40'↑ 12'↔**



### Gingerbread Palm

*Hyphaene thebaica*  
Native to Arabia and North Africa. Used to make buttons and as a replacement for ivory. Produces the doum nut, tasting similar to gingerbread.  
**Zones 10b-11    40'↑ 20'↔**

### Lady Palm

*Rhapis excelsa*  
Native to Southern China and Taiwan and is a cultivated palm not known in the wild. Small clustering palm for shady landscape.  
**Zones 9a-11    12'↑ 6'↔**



### Old Man Palm

*Coccothrinax crinita*  
Native to Cuba. The name comes from the stiff, gray colored hairs on the trunk. This palm is now critically endangered with only 60 – 130 trees left on the island of Cuba.  
**Zones 10b-11    15'↑ 10'↔**



### Pacaya Palm

*Chamaedorea tepejilote*  
Native to Southern Mexico, Central America and Columbia. Male inflorescences are edible and resemble an ear of corn in shape and size.  
**Zones 10b-11    20'↑ 15'↔**



### Paurotis Palm

*Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*  
Native to moist environments in South Florida, Central America, and the West Indies. Also known as the Everglades Palm. Protected in the Florida Everglades.  
**Zones 9b-11    40'↑ 20'↔**



### Pindo Palm

*Butia capitata*  
Native to Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. The ripe fruit is the size of a cherry. Tastes of apple, pineapple and banana.  
**Zones 8-10    20'↑ 12'↔**



### Ponytail Palm

*Beaucarnea recurvate*  
Native to Eastern Mexico. In the agave family; not a true palm. Popular ornamental plant.  
**Zones 10a-11    15'↑ 15'↔**

### Pygmy Date Palm

*Phoenix roebelenii*  
Native to the tropical forests of Southeast Asia. Due to its small stature, it is used commonly indoors, on patios and in entryways. High wind tolerance.  
**Zones 10-11    12'↑ 8'↔**



### Queen Palm\*

*Syagrus romanzoffiana*  
Native to South America. Large cream-colored inflorescences in summer are followed by bright orange fruit. Fruit drop is a major concern.  
**Zones 9-11    50'↑ 25'↔**



### Ribbon Fan Palm

*Livistona decora* (Synonym: *Livistona decipiens*)  
Native to Australia. Its leaves split into many segments from the middle of the leaf, looking like ribbons dangling from a hand-held fan.  
**Zones 9-11    30'↑ 15'↔**



### Royal Palm

*Roystonea regia*  
Native to South Florida and Cuba. Very tall and stately; best in large landscapes. Also known as *Roystonea elata*.  
**Zones 10-11    70'↑ 20'↔**



### Seashore Palm

*Allagoptera arenaria*  
Native to Atlantic coast of Brazil. Very tolerant of beach exposure and salt spray.  
**Zones 10-11    6'↑ 8'↔**



### Senegal Date Palm\*

*Phoenix reclinata*  
Native to Africa. Clumping palm, invasive and not recommended in the central and south zones in Florida.  
**Zones 9b-11    40'↑ 30'↔**

### Spindle Palm

*Hyophorbe verschaffeltii*  
Native to the Mascarene Islands. Unusually spindle-shaped trunk.  
**Zones 10-11    20'↑ 10'↔**



### Teddy Bear Palm

*Dypsis leptocheilos*  
Native to Madagascar. Named for its fuzzy brown crown shaft.  
**Zones 9b-11    30'↑ 15'↔**



### Triangle Palm

*Dypsis decaryi*  
Native to Madagascar. Fronds grow in three distinct rows, creating the shape of a triangle.  
**Zones 10b-11    30'↑ 12'↔**



### Wedding Palm

*Lytocaryum weddellianum*  
Native to South America. Ideally suited as a container plant.  
**Zones 10b-11    12'↑ 5'↔**



### Windmill Palm

*Trachycarpus fortunei*  
Native to Southeast Asia. Well suited to small spaces. An ideal palm for cold climates.  
**Zones 8-11    20'↑ 10'↔**



### Zombie Palm

*Zombia antillarum*  
Native to Hispaniola. Trunks and stems lined with needled spines, therefore best to situate away from areas where people frequent.  
**Zones 10b-11    12'↑ 10'↔**

**\*Category II Invasive**