

# PALM-LIKE

Common Name/ Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Watering Needs	Salt Tolerance	Light Range	Typical Height	Growth Rate	Comments
<b>NATIVE FLORIDA SPECIES</b>							
Buccaneer Palm <i>Pseudophoenix sargentii</i>	10b-11	Low	H	Partial Sun, Full Sun	10'	Slow	Small specimen or accent palm with a stout, ringed trunk, a canopy of 8-10 blue-green leaves and produces clusters of bright red fruits. Tolerance of salty winds, drought and a variety of soils makes this palm well suited for coastal plantings. Rare.
Cabbage Palm <i>Sabal palmetto</i>	8a-11	Low	H	Partial Sun, Full Sun	40'	Medium	Florida's state tree. Adaptable to various soil conditions and very wind resistant. The fruits, flowers and crown where moisture collects provide wildlife value. Some retain the old frond bases ("boots"), which provide attachment areas for epiphytic ferns.
Dwarf Palmetto <i>Sabal minor</i>	8a-10b	Low	M	Partial Sun, Shade	6'	Medium	Small, usually trunkless palm commonly used as an understory accent or specimen plant. Bluish-green to green foliage adds a distinctive tropical look to the landscape. Tolerant of varying site conditions.
Florida Royal Palm <i>Roystonea regia = R. elata</i>	10a-11	Medium	M	Full Sun	80'	Medium	These large stately palms shed heavy 10-foot fronds, which may present a hazard to structures or passersby. Site them in rich, moist soils where there is adequate space. Formerly held to be two species, Florida and Cuban Royal Palm.
Needle Palm <i>Rhapidophyllum hystrix</i>	8a-10b	Low	M	Partial Sun, Shade	5'	Medium	This small trunkless specimen palm adds a tropical accent to the landscape. The fiber-matted crown contains sharp, needle-like fibers. It is usually found in the understory of rich hardwood forests.
Paurotis Palm <i>Acoelorrhaphe wrightii</i>	9b-11	Low	M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	20'	Medium	Spiny, multi-trunked palm, which eventually forms a large cluster in time. Also known as the Everglades palm, this accent palm prefers relatively moist soils. Manganese deficiency ("frizzle top") may develop in alkaline soils.
Saw Palmetto <i>Serenoa repens</i>	8a-11	Low	H	Partial Sun, Full Sun	6'	Medium	Widely adaptable and very durable, multi-trunked palm. Flowers attract many pollinating insects and its blue-black berries are used medicinally. Large specimens are difficult to transplant. Petioles (frond branches) are saw-toothed at margins.
Scrub Palmetto <i>Sabal etonia</i>	8a-10b	Low	M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	4'	Medium	Similar to the dwarf palmetto but occurs only in peninsular Florida on drier (scrub) soils. Rare.
Silver Palm <i>Coccothrinax argentata</i>	10b-11	Low	H	Partial Sun, Full Sun	10' often smaller	Medium	Small, slow-growing specimen palm with finely divided palmate leaves that have silvery undersides. Tolerant of alkaline soils and well suited for coastal locations. Dark fruits attractive to wildlife.
Thatch Palm, Florida <i>Thrinax radiata</i>	10b-11	Low	H	Partial Sun, Full Sun	20'	Medium	Tolerant of alkaline soils, and has no disease or pest problems. A small, durable, palm with glossy, fan-shaped fronds that is excellent for coastal locations. White fruits eaten by songbirds.
Thatch Palm, Key <i>Thrinax morrisii</i>	10b-11	Low	H	Partial Sun, Full Sun	20' often smaller	Medium	Similar to the Florida Thatch Palm except for a silvery underside of the fronds. Tolerant of high alkalinity and coastal conditions, it can also be grown inland where drainage is good (sandy soils).

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Buccaneer Palm  
*Pseudophoenix sargentii*



Cabbage Palm  
*Sabal palmetto*



Florida Royal Palm  
*Roystonea regia = R. elata*



Paurotis Palm  
*Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*



Saw Palmetto  
*Serenoa repens*



Thatch Palm, Florida  
*Thrinax radiata*

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<b>NON-NATIVE SPECIES</b>							
Alexandra Palm <i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i>	10b-11	Low	L	Partial Sun, Full Sun	40'	Medium	Also known as King Alexander Palm, it makes a stately accent in the landscape. New leaves may be bronze color on young specimens. Performs best with supplemental irrigation during drought periods. It does not transplant well from field nurseries.
Areca Palm <i>Dypsis lutescens</i> = <i>Chrysalidocarpus lutescens</i>	10b-11	Low	M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	20'	Medium	Commonly used as a multi-trunked specimen or screening palm. Its foliage suffers on poor soils but with fertilization the leaflets will be medium-green contrasting with a yellowish leaf stem. Spreads aggressively, plant where there is adequate space.
Arikury Palm <i>Syagrus schizophylla</i>	10a-11	Low	M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	15'	Medium	A relatively small specimen palm that prefers partial shade. It is adaptable in its soil requirements. The frond bases (petioles) are spiny.
Bamboo Palm <i>Chamaedorea erumpens</i>	10b-11	Low	L	Shade	10'	Medium	Slender, solitary bamboo-like palm with small (18-20 inches long) fronds. Adaptable in its soil requirements. Useful as an understory shrub in a tropical garden or as an indoor foliage plant. Its fruit is mildly irritating.
Bird-of-Paradise, White <i>Strelitzia nicolai</i>	9a-11	Low	M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	20'	Medium	Large banana-like leaves are subject to splitting by the wind. An attractive multi-trunked large accent plant that provides a tropical look to the landscape. Produces showy flowers that are purple and white.
Bismarck Palm <i>Bismarckia nobilis</i>	10a-11	Low	M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	30'-60'	Medium	A massive fan palm with large silver blue leaves that adapts well to Florida conditions, but is out-of scale for small residential yards. Slow to form a trunk, its growth rate increases towards moderate after trunk development.
Canary Island Date Palm <i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	9a-11	Low	M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	40'	Medium	Large formal accent or specimen palm with a massive trunk. The lower third of the fronds bear long, sharp spines. Poorly drained sites should be avoided. Susceptible to lethal yellowing and magnesium deficiency.
Cardboard Palm <i>Zamia furfuracea</i>	10a-11	Low	H	Partial Sun, Full Sun	3'	Medium	A sturdy cycad with stiff, fern-like leaves that feel like cardboard. It may be used as a bold groundcover or as an accent shrub in sandy, well-drained soils. Red seeds held in cones by female plants are poisonous. Leaves heavily damaged at 28°F.
Cat Palm <i>Chamaedorea cataractarum</i>	10b-11	High	L	Partial Sun, Shade	5'	Medium	A small virtually trunkless, palm with attractive foliage that forms a rounded clump. It is useful as a shrubby accent in a shaded garden. It has moderate drought tolerance in the shade.
Chinese Fan Palm <i>Livistona chinensis</i>	9a-11	Low	M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	25'	Medium	Hardy specimen plant with a wide-spreading crown and long drooping leaf tips. It is spiny and slightly susceptible to lethal yellowing. This hardy palm can handle a few degrees below freezing without damage. Other <i>Livistona</i> species are available.
Cliff Date Palm <i>Phoenix rupicola</i>	9-11	Low	M	Full Sun	25'	Medium	A graceful, moderately sized date palm that has bright green arching fronds with pinnate leaves that lie in one plane. The lower leaflets are modified into spines. It is adaptable to various soils.
Clustering Fishtail Palm <i>Caryota mitis</i>	10a-11	Low	L	Partial Sun, Full Sun	18'	Medium	The unusual leaf form of this multi-trunked palm makes it useful as a specimen plant. Its stems die after fruiting but are replaced by new clustering stems. Fruit contains irritating calcium oxalate crystals. Spreads aggressively, requiring adequate space.
Coconut Palm <i>Cocos nucifera</i>	10b-11	Low	H	Full Sun	60'	Medium	Coconut palms are the most economically important palm for use as food, thatch and coir fiber. The trees adapt well to exposed coastal locations and warm temperatures. The "Malayan" and "Maypan" varieties are resistant to the fatal lethal yellowing virus.

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

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Areca Palm  
*Dypsis lutescens*



Bamboo Palm  
*Chamaedorea erumpens*



Canary Island Date Palm  
*Phoenix canariensis*



Cardboard Palm  
*Zamia furfuracea*



Cat Palm  
*Chamaedorea cataractarum*



Chinese Fan Palm  
*Livistona chinensis*



Clustering Fishtail Palm  
*Caryota mitis*



Coconut Palm  
*Cocos nucifera*

# PALM-LIKE

Common Name/ Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Watering Needs	Salt Tolerance	Light Range	Typical Height	Growth Rate	Comments
Cycad, Chamal, Dioon <i>Dioon edule</i>	8b-11	Low	M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	5'	Slow	This very slow-growing, long-lived cycad is used as a specimen plant for tropical effects. Its stiff, shiny, dark green leaflets are sharp. Tolerant of various soils and drought, it forms a trunk only after many years.
Edible Date Palm <i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	8b-11	Low	H	Full Sun	70'	Medium	An adaptable landscape palm to various soils and conditions, but mildly susceptible to lethal yellowing disease. Foliage is gray-green and the lower leaflets are modified into sharp spines.
European Fan Palm <i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	8a-11	Medium	M	Full Sun, Partial Sun	10'	Medium	This small fan palm is commonly used as a specimen or buffer plant, and is adaptable to various soils, but they must be well-drained. The frond stems are armed with orange spines. There is much variation in leaf color and habit among specimens.
Foxtail Palm <i>Wodyetia bifurcata</i>	10a-11	Low	M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	30'	Fast	A popular, fast-growing specimen palm with dark green leaves with silvery undersides and a slender gray trunk that is ringed with leaf scars. It appears to be adaptable to various soil conditions.
Hurricane Palm <i>Dictyosperma album</i>	10b-11	Low	M	Full Sun	30'	Medium	A spiny accent or specimen palm for tropical and subtropical landscapes. It is adaptable in its soil requirements, but drying winds can burn the foliage. It is moderately susceptible to lethal yellowing disease.
King Sago <i>Cycas revoluta</i>	8b-11	Low	L-M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	8'	Medium	This palm-like cycad has stiff dark green foliage and is used as an accent shrub. It is adaptable in its soil requirements but prone to micronutrient deficiencies. The leaves are somewhat spiny and its red fruits are poisonous. Prone to scale infestations.
Lady Palm <i>Rhapis excelsa</i>	9-11	Low	M	Partial Sun, Shade	7'	Medium	Best suited for partial shade because its palmate leaves tend to yellow in sun. It forms dense clusters and can be used as an accent shrub or an interior plant. It is prone to iron deficiency and manganese deficiency in alkaline soils.
Licuala Palm <i>Licuala grandis</i>	10b-11	Medium	L	Partial Sun	8'	Medium	Small specimen palm that is a rainforest understory plant. It requires partial shade and protection of its unique corrugated, circular leaves from drying winds. It prefers a well-drained organic soil. The lower part of the frond branch contains hooked teeth.
Macarthur Palm <i>Ptychosperma macarthurii</i>	10b-11	Low	L	Partial Sun, Full Sun	25'	Medium	A slender, multiple trunked palm that is adaptable to various soils and resistant to lethal yellowing. This clumping species has smaller leaves and thinner trunks than Solitaire Palm and may also be used for interiorscape. Its red fruits are an irritant.
Majesty Palm <i>Ravenala rivularis</i>	10a-11	Low	M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	60'-80'	Fast	Adaptable specimen palm for understory planting locations. This palm quickly reaches 10 feet of height then slows in growth rate. Requires frequent fertilization or moderate shade to maintain healthy look. Widely used as an interior plant.
Montgomery Palm <i>Veitchia montgomeryana</i>	10b-11	Low	M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	25'-35'	Fast	A small specimen palm that has a slender gray (green near the crownshaft) trunk and fronds that do not drop below a horizontal position. It is adaptable in its soil requirements and slightly susceptible to lethal yellowing.
Parlor Palm <i>Chamaedorea elegans</i>	10b-11	Low	L	Shade, Partial Sun	6'	Medium	Parlor palm is a densely clustering trunked palm that is very popular as an indoor foliage plant and can be used as a small accent in low light outdoors. Its black fruits are an irritant and mites can be a problem at low relative humidity.
Pindo Palm <i>Butia capitata</i>	8a-10b	Low	M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	15'	Medium	Hardy specimen plant with stiff, blue-green pinnate leaves densely covering arching fronds, which also contain spines. Also called Jelly Palm for its edible fruits, it does best in Central and Northern Florida. Tolerant of various soils.
Ponytail Palm <i>Beaucarnea recurvata</i>	10a-11	Low	M	Full Sun	10'	Medium	Often erroneously called a palm, this small specimen tree has long, linear leaves and a large swollen base/trunk. Micronutrient deficiencies, however, are common with this plant.

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

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European Fan Palm  
*Chamaerops humilis*



Foxtail Palm  
*Wodyetia bifurcata*



King Sago  
*Cycas revoluta*



Lady Palm  
*Rhapis excelsa*



Parlor Palm  
*Chamaedorea elegans*



Pindo Palm  
*Butia capitata*



Ponytail Palm  
*Beaucarnea recurvata*

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Pygmy Date Palm <i>Phoenix roebelenii</i>	10a-11	Low	L	Partial Sun, Full Sun	10'	Slow	The Pygmy Date Palm is a popular, small accent palm with graceful, fine-textured fronds. It is subject to magnesium, manganese and potassium deficiencies and is armed with sharp spines on the petioles (frond bases).
Queen Palm <i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i>	10a-11	Low	M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	40'	Medium	Widely planted specimen palm that has a smooth gray trunk and long arching fronds. Manganese deficiency ("frizzle top") is frequently a problem, especially in alkaline soils, unless periodically fertilized. It produces copious fruits, which can be messy.
Queen Sago <i>Cycas circinalis</i>	10b-11	Low	M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	10'	Medium	Large cycad with dark green, spiny palm-like leaves that are much larger than those of the King Sago. It forms a visible trunk and can be used as a free-standing specimen in large areas. Produces red fruits that are poisonous. Prefers well drained soils.
Screw Pine <i>Pandanus utilis</i>	10b-11	Low	H	Full Sun	25'	Medium	Unusual tree with palm-like leaf clusters and prop-like roots. It is tolerant of various soils. It is slightly susceptible to lethal yellowing and the leaves are spiny. Its unusual fruits are edible and resemble a pineapple.
Senegal Date Palm <i>Phoenix reclinata</i>	9-11	Low	M	Full Sun	25'-30'	Medium	This multi-trunked specimen palm suckers vigorously and produces many stems. The lower leaves are modified into long, dagger-like spines. It is tolerant of various soils but requires sufficient room.
Solitaire Palm <i>Ptychosperma elegans</i>	10b-11	Low	L	Partial Sun, Full Sun	20'	Medium	Also known as Alexander Palm, this small, slender palm is commonly used as a specimen tree for interiorscape. It produces red fruits and is lethal yellowing resistant. It is adaptable to various soils but must be protected from cold winds.
Traveler's Palm <i>Ravenala madagascariensis</i>	10a-11	Low	L	Partial Sun, Full Sun	25'	Medium	Relative of the banana and bird of paradise, this striking plant has large, tropical-looking leaves arranged in one plane atop a stout trunk. It does best in fertile soil and is used as a free-standing specimen.
Triangle Palm <i>Neodypsis decaryi</i>	10b-11	Low	L	Partial Sun, Full Sun	25'	Medium	Unique blue-green leaves are arranged in three planes, creating a bold, formal appearance. It requires well-drained soil and regular fertilization on infertile soils. Drought tolerant once established, it is slightly susceptible to lethal yellowing.
Washington Palm <i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	8a-11	Low	M	Full Sun	80'	Medium	A very tall, slender and spiny fan palm that retains old leaves in a petticoat. Its leaves are damaged in the low 20s°F. This desert palm naturally lives near water but over-watering in humid areas can cause root and butt rot.
Wild Date Palm <i>Phoenix sylvestris</i>	9a-11	Low	M	Full Sun	40'	Medium	Also known as Toddy Palm or India Date Palm. It is adaptable in its soil requirements and like other large date palms, makes a durable specimen tree. The blue-green cast of the leaves is variable and the petiole is armed with spines.
Windmill Palm <i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>	8a-10b	Low	M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	25'	Medium	This small specimen fan palm is one of the most cold and shade tolerant palms in cultivation. It will not thrive in hot, tropical conditions. The petioles are slightly spiny and has soft, disorganized brown fiber on the trunk. It prefers fertile soils.
Yucca, Spineless <i>Yucca elephantipes</i>	9b-11	Low	M	Partial Sun, Full Sun	20'	Medium	This is one of the few yuccas that has relatively soft leaf tips, unlike Spanish Bayonet which has very sharp, hard leaf tips. It is adaptable to various soils and commonly used as an accent. Variegated forms are also available.

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Pygmy Date Palm  
*Phoenix roebelenii*



Queen Sago  
*Cycas circinalis*



Screw Pine  
*Pandanus utilis*



Traveler's Palm  
*Ravenala madagascariensis*



Triangle Palm  
*Neodypsis decaryi*



Washington Palm  
*Washingtonia robusta*



Wild Date Palm  
*Phoenix sylvestris*



Yucca, Spineless  
*Yucca elephantipes*