



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## ***Chamaedorea microspadix***<sup>1</sup>

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### **Introduction**

This clumping palm has slender, bamboo-like, stems that grow to about 7 feet tall (Fig. 1). New stems continually arise from the base of the palm. These are smooth and pale green with feathery fronds borne 3 to 4 inches apart. The fronds have regularly spaced leaflets that are dull green in color with pointed tips. The outer most two leaflets are 2 to 3 times wider than the others. Small yellow-green flowers of the Microspadix Palm are borne in showy clusters and on female plants are followed by small, bright orange-red fruits.

### **General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Chamaedorea microspadix*

**Pronunciation:** kam-ee-DOR-ee-uh mye-kroe-SPAY-dicks

**Common name(s):** Microspadix Palm, Bamboo Palm

**Family:** *Palmae*

**Plant type:** palm

**USDA hardiness zones:** 8B through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 8:** year round

**Planting month for zone 9:** year round

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** specimen; screen; border; accent; mass planting; suitable for growing indoors

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant



Figure 1. Microspadix Palm.

**Spread:** 3 to 5 feet

**Plant habit:** upright; palm

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** medium

### **Foliage**

### **Description**

**Height:** 5 to 8 feet

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-121, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1999. Please visit the EDIS web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf arrangement:** spiral  
**Leaf type:** even-pinnately compound  
**Leaf margin:** entire  
**Leaf shape:** lanceolate  
**Leaf venation:** parallel  
**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen  
**Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** no fall color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** yellow  
**Flower characteristic:** flowers periodically throughout the year

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** round  
**Fruit length:** less than .5 inch  
**Fruit cover:** fleshy  
**Fruit color:** red  
**Fruit characteristic:** persists on the plant

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems; showy  
**Current year stem/twig color:** green  
**Current year stem/twig thickness:** not applicable

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in the shade  
**Soil tolerances:** acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay;  
**Drought tolerance:** moderate  
**Soil salt tolerances:** poor  
**Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

**Other**

**Roots:** sprouts from roots or lower trunk  
**Winter interest:** no special winter interest  
**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding  
**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive  
**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

## **Use and Management**

The Microspadix Palm makes a great border or specimen plant and is quite striking when planted in mass. It is also a wonderful container plant for outdoor or indoor decoration. It can be grown inside in a bright location. Old fronds turn brown and hang on the plant for a considerable length of time. The plant looks much neater when these are regularly removed.

This excellent garden palm tolerates high shade. Plants can be acclimated to a partially sunny location with gradual exposure. However, plants receiving regular fertilizer applications appear much greener and more attractive than those without fertilizer. Regular irrigation also appears to encourage continued growth. The Microspadix Palm will do well in a partially to fully shaded location in the landscape. It is tolerant of short periods of drought and will be happy in most well-drained soils.

### **Pests and Diseases**

No pests or diseases are of major concern.