



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

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

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### Introduction

This small, delicate, multiple-trunked palm produces clumps of bamboo-like canes having lacy, pinnate, drooping fronds (Fig. 1). New stems continually form at the base of the plant keeping it full of fine-textured foliage. Bright green canes grow up to one-half inch in diameter. Since older leaves die and hang onto the stem, they require manual removal to keep the plant looking neat. The individual dark green leaflets are almost papery and the last few leaflets at the tip of the leaf are several times wider than others on the leaf.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Chamaedorea erumpens*

**Pronunciation:** kam-ee-DOR-ee-uh ee-RUM-penz

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

**Family:** *Palmae*

**Plant type:** palm

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10B through 11 (Fig. 2)

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

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** screen; container or above-ground planter; border; mass planting; suitable for growing indoors; accent

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

### Description

**Height:** 4 to 12 feet

**Spread:** 3 to 5 feet

**Plant habit:** upright; palm

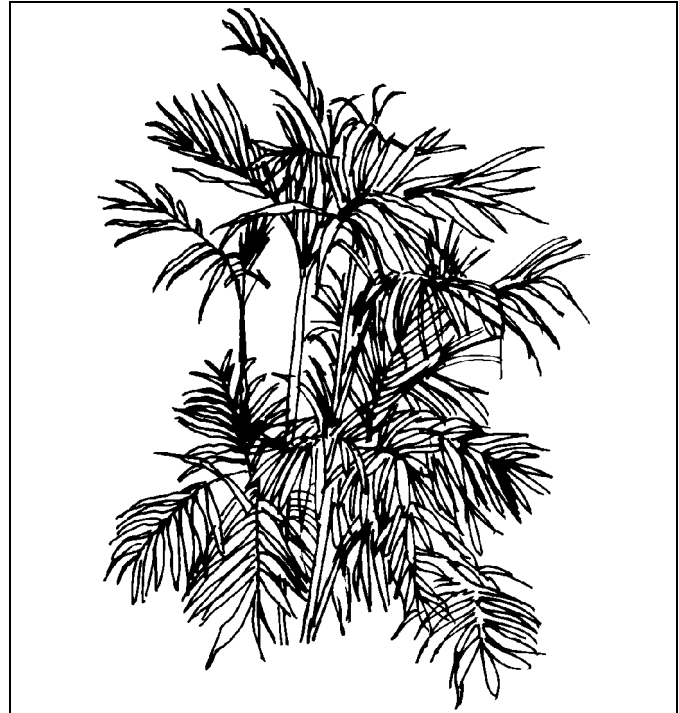


Figure 1. Bamboo Palm.

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** fine

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** spiral

**Leaf type:** even-pinnately compound

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**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:** white  
**Flower characteristic:** flowers periodically throughout the year

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** round  
**Fruit length:** less than .5 inch  
**Fruit cover:** fleshy  
**Fruit color:** black  
**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

**Trunk and Branches**

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

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in the shade  
**Soil tolerances:** slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam  
**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

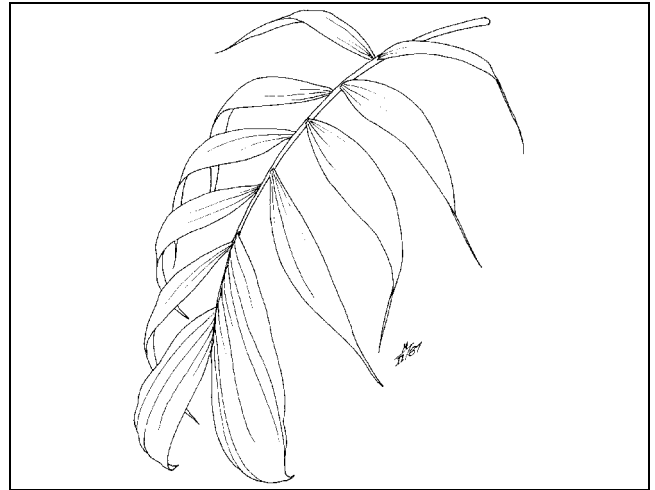
Native to the dense rain forests of Central America, Bamboo Palm needs rich, fibrous, well-drained moist soil and a shady location. Usually relegated to interior house plant containers, Bamboo Palm is striking when used around outdoor fountains or ponds where it will thrive in the shade and wind protection of taller plantings. It makes a delicate, fine-textured accent in a shrub border or in a low-growing groundcover.

Propagation is by seed or division of the clumps.

Scale and spider mites can become serious pest problems, especially when used indoors.

### Pests and Diseases

No diseases are of major concern.



**Figure 3.** Foliage of Bamboo Palm