



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Coccothrinax crinita*<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman<sup>2</sup>

### Introduction

This Cuba native is well known for its stiff, beige-colored hairs densely borne along the entire length of the single, thick trunk. Palmately lobed, simple leaves appear compound and are delicately borne on short, thin petioles.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Coccothrinax crinita*

**Pronunciation:** koe-koe-THRYE-nacks krin-NEE-tuh

**Common name(s):** Old Man Palm

**Family:** *Arecaceae*

**Plant type:** palm; tree

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10B through 11 (Fig. 1)

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

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** specimen; container or above-ground planter; recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway

**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

### Description

**Height:** 10 to 15 feet

**Spread:** 6 to 10 feet

**Plant habit:** upright

**Plant density:** open

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** coarse

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** spiral

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** star-shaped

**Leaf venation:** palmate

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** 18 to 36 inches

**Leaf color:** silver/gray

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** yellow

**Flower characteristic:** summer flowering

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** round

**Fruit length:** .5 to 1 inch

**Fruit cover:** fleshy

**Fruit color:** purple

**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** usually with one stem/trunk; no thorns

**Current year stem/twig color:** not applicable

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** not applicable

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

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Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## Culture

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun; plant grows in the shade

**Soil tolerances:** clay; acidic; well-drained; sand; loam

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown

**Plant spacing:** not applicable

## Other

**Roots:** usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

## Use and Management

One Old Man Palm may be all that is needed in a small landscape, but they can be planted in mass if room and budget permit. They appear to be standing like soldiers with their stiff, bearded trunks emerging straight from the ground. Good drought and salt tolerance makes them well adapted for planting along the seashore with some protection.

### Pests and Diseases

There appears to be no major pest or disease problems.