



Carpentaria acuminata Carpentaria Palm¹

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INTRODUCTION

This fast-growing palm tree quickly grows to a height of 40 feet, the smooth grey trunk topped with 10-foot-long, spreading green fronds (Fig. 1). The inconspicuous white flowers appear from spring through fall and are followed by the production of bright red fruits which are less than one-inch-long. The juice from these fruits can cause a skin irritation. Once highly recommended as a replacement for the Christmas Palm which is very susceptible to lethal yellowing disease, Carpentaria Palm apparently requires a richer soil than many landscapes can provide. It is also susceptible to trunk cracks in cool weather, a condition which opens the trunk to decay organisms.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Carpentaria acuminata*

Pronunciation: kar-pen-TAIR-ee-uh
ack-yoo-min-NAY-tuh

Common name(s): Carpentaria Palm

Family: *Arecaceae*

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

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: container or above-ground planter; suitable for growing indoors; near a deck or patio; specimen

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

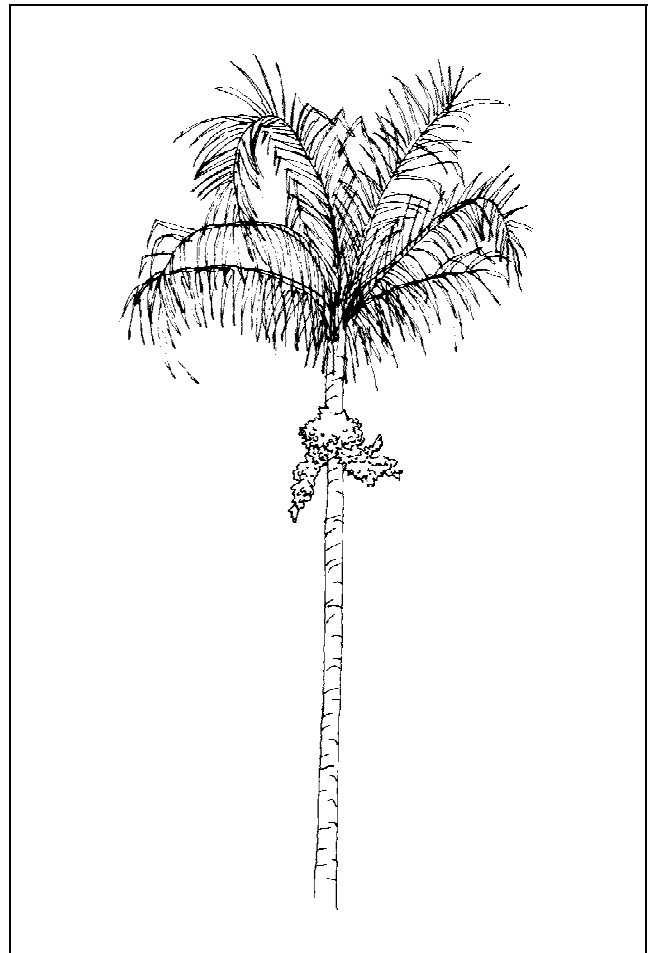


Figure 1. Mature Carpentaria Palm.

DESCRIPTION

Height: 35 to 40 feet

Spread: 8 to 10 feet

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Crown uniformity: symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

Crown shape: palm; upright

Crown density: open

Growth rate: fast

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: spiral

Leaf type: odd pinnately compound

Leaflet margin: entire

Leaflet shape: linear

Leaflet venation: parallel

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaflet blade length: >36 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: white

Flower characteristics: fall flowering; inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering; summer flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: round

Fruit length: .5 to 1 inch

Fruit covering: dry or hard

Fruit color: red

Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; no significant litter problem; showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: grow mostly upright and will not droop; not particularly showy; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns

Pruning requirement: needs little pruning to develop a strong structure

Breakage: resistant

Crown shaft: yes

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; slightly alkaline; acidic; occasionally wet; well-drained

Drought tolerance: moderate

Aerosol salt tolerance: low

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding tree: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: not known to be susceptible

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

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Carpentaria Palm is probably best suited for an occasional accent or specimen planting where temperatures stay warm in the winter. A number of them grouped together can be attractive. Choose the best soil on your site for planting this palm.

Carpentaria Palm should be grown in full sun on rich, moist but well-drained, fertile soil, and it has a low tolerance for salt and drought.

Propagation is by seeds.

Pests

Thrips.

Diseases

No diseases are of major concern.