

Nowhere else in the continental United States is it possible to grow the wide variety of palms that can be successfully grown in Florida, and a good number of these can be grown in Brevard County.

These graceful plants do much to make the Brevard landscape distinctively different. Many native and exotic species, varying from dwarfs of a few feet to magnificent trees which attain a height of 100ft, are widely utilized with striking effect in Florida.

Planting

Palms may be planted at any time of the year. Roots develop mostly during the warm rainy season. Plant the palm at the same depth it was grown in the container. Prepare the soil taken from the hole with **Rockledge Gardens Planting Mix**. Add at a rate of 1 part planting mix to 2 parts existing soil. Use this mixture to backfill the hole. After backfilling, use the hose to eliminate air pockets.

Water

Thoroughly water the newly planted palm every third day for about two weeks. Then water it weekly until it is established. After that water it as needed. Adjust accordingly to the weather conditions and the moisture retention of your yard.

Fertilizing

Palm trees should be fed with **Harrell's 11-4-11**. Use ½ to 3 cups per palm depending on maturity every other month. Do not use organic fertilizers on palms. Certain palms often become deficient in manganese. This deficiency affects the new growth causing a frizzled look of the new leaves. The deficiency is called "frizzle-top". An application of one to three pounds of manganese sulphate will control this problem. It takes about six months for results to be seen. You can also apply **KeyPlex** nutritional spray to help prevent frizzle-top of palms.

Aftercare

Be careful that you never injure the base of the palm with tools or lawn mowers. These injuries will allow the entry of disease such as butt rot into the palm. Some pruning of palms is necessary. This consists mainly of removing old unsightly fronds and seed stalks. Do not remove green fronds as over-pruning weakens the palm.



Botanical Name	Common Name	Size	Cold tol	Salt tol	Comments
Acoelorrhaphe wrightii	Paurotis / Saw Cabbage	Large clump	High	Very High	Our best cluster palm for outdoors
Acrocomla species	Gru-Gru	Large	High	High	Exotic and spiny
Adonidia merrillii	Christmas Palm, etc.	Med	Low	High	Very susceptible to lethal yellowing
Archontophoenix alexandra	King palm, Alexandra	Med	Low	Low	Graceful, very fast growing
Archontophoenix cunninghamiana	King Palm	Med	Med-low	Low	Fast growing, can stand light freezes quite well
Arenga engleri	Dwarf Sugar Palm	Small clump	High	Med	Very attractive, needs extra iron
Bismarckia nobilis	Bismarckia / Bismarck Palm	Large	Med	High	Leaves are bluish-silver
Butia capitata	Jelly or Pindo Palm	Med	Very High	Very High	Slow growing, edible fruit
Carpentaria acuminata	Carpentaria	Med	Very low	Low	Native to Australia's top end
Caryota mitis	Fishtail Palm	Med clump	Low	Med	Most often used indoors in Brevard County
Chamaerops humilis	European Fan Palm	Med clump	Very high	Very high	Needs good drainage
Coccothrinax spp.	Silver palm	Small	Med	Very high	Slow growing, carefree, native
Cocos nucifera	Coconut	Med	Low	Highest	Good for Brevard beaches
Copernicia alba	Copernicia	Med	High	High	Beautiful slender fan palm
Dictyosperma album	Princess Palm	Med	Very low	Med	Sometimes called Hurricane Palm
Dypsis lutescens	Areca / Yellow Butterfly	Med Clump	Low	Med	Recovers from freeze

<i>Howea forsteriana</i>	Kentia Palm	Med	Low	High	Popular house plant, can stand some cold
<i>Hyophorbe lagenicaulis</i>	Bottle Palm	Small	Very low	Med	Bottle shaped trunk, can be containerized
<i>Hyophorbe verschaffeltii</i>	Spindle Palm	Small	Low	High	Unusually shaped and colored trunk
<i>Hyphaene</i> spp.	Gingerbread	Lg. Branched	Med	High	Strange, branching, many-headed
<i>Licuala spinosa</i>	Licuala	Small clump	Med	Low	Strangely shaped leaves, best in shade
<i>Livistona australis</i>	Australian Fan Palm	Med	Very high	High	Foliage more attractive than "Chinese Fan"
<i>Livistona chinensis</i>	Chinese Fan Palm	Med	Very high	High	Looks best in shade
<i>Livistona decipiens</i>	Weeping Fan Palm	Large	Very high	High	Full sun, very fast growing
<i>Neodypsis decaryi</i>	Triangle Palm	Med	Low	Med	Very unusual 3-tiered growth
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Pineapple / Canary Island	Large	Very high	Very high	Needs space
<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	True Date Palm	Large clump	Very high	Very high	Bluish leaves, needs full sun
<i>Phoenix reclinata</i>	Senegal Date	Large clump	High	High	Suckers should be limited
<i>Phoenix roebelenii</i>	Pygmy Date	Small	Medium	High	Should be protected during freezes
<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i>	Indian Date	Large	High	High	The best large date for Brevard
<i>Pinanga coronata</i>	Ivory Cane Palm	Small clump	Very low	Low	Needs protection from sun and cold
<i>Ptychosperma elegans</i>	Alexander Palm / Solitaire	Slender	Very low	Med	Can be container-grown

<i>Ravenea rivularis</i>	Majesty Palm	Med-large	Medium	Medium	Fast growing; from Madagascar
<i>Rhapidophyllum hystrix</i>	Needle Palm	Small clump	Extra high	High	Looks best in partial shade
<i>Rhapis excelsa</i>	Lady Palm	Small clump	Very high	Med	Excelsa is the best species of <i>Rhapis</i>
<i>Roystonea</i> spp.	Royal Palm	Large	Low	High	Recommended for warmer parts of Brevard
<i>Sabal causiarum</i>	Puerto Rican Hat Palm	Large	Very high	High	Trunk like "Royal Palm"
<i>Sabal mauritiiformis</i>	Savannah Palm	Med	Med	Med	Most tropical of sabals; large leaves, slim trunk
<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	Cabbage Palm	Med	Very high	Very high	Florida's state tree
<i>Sabal yapa</i>	Yapa	Med	Med/high	High	Native to Cuba; slender trunk
<i>Seranoa repens</i>	Saw Cabbage	Small clump	Very high	Very high	An underused native palm
<i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i>	Cocos Plumosa / Queen	Med	High	Med	Most popular exotic in Florida
<i>Syagrus schizophylla</i>	Arikury	Small	Low/med	Med	Slim trunk; does best in light shade
<i>Thrinax radiata</i>	Thatch Palm	Small	Low/med	Very high	Native, slim trunk
<i>Veitchia</i> spp.	Dwarf Royal	Slender	Very low	High	Beautiful natives of the South Pacific
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Skyduster	Large	Very high	Very high	Tallest growing palm for Brevard
<i>Wodyetia bifurcata</i>	Foxtail	Med	Low	Med	Popular Australian exotic