

Ravenala madagascariensis

(Travelers-Tree)

The traveler's palm is not a true palm. It is closely related to the plant "bird of paradise" (*Strelitzia reginae*). It hails from the island of Madagascar. Water often collects in its leaf bases, believed to reduce the thirst of jungle travelers. It has been described as being part banana plant and part palm tree. The thick, un-branched, palm-like stem is topped by a flat-planed, fan-shaped crown of leathery, banana-like green leaves. Traveler's tree does not bloom until near maturity. A few flowers open at a time all summer long but are not particularly beautiful, and often cutoff when they appear. It is grown as single specimen creating a tropical effect. Cercospora leaf-spot is a very serious disease problem.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Arbre du voyageur, Ravenale
Pronunciation: rav-eh-NAY-luh mad-uh-gas-kar-ee-EN-sis

Plant Type: Palm

Origin: Madagascar

Heat Zones: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

Hardiness Zones: 10, 11

Uses: Specimen

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Moderate

Tree Shape: Upright, Vase

Canopy Symmetry: Irregular

Canopy Density: Open

Canopy Texture: Coarse

Height at Maturity: 8 to 15 m

Spread at Maturity: 5 to 8 meters

Time to Ultimate Height: 10 to 20 Years

Notes

It is perfect for special accent in tropical landscape.

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Leaf Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: Over 80 cm

Leaf Margins: Entire

Leaf Textures: Glossy

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Size Range: 10 - 20

Flower Type: Spike

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: No Fragrance

Flower Color: Yellow, White

Seasons: Spring, Summer

Trunk

Trunk Has Crownshaft: False

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Single Trunk

Trunk Esthetic Values: Showy, Rough Texture

Fruit

Fruit Type: Capsule

Fruit Showiness: False

Fruit Size Range: 1.5 - 3

Fruit Colors: Brown

Seasons: Spring, Summer

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Bark Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Poor

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral

Water Requirements: Moderate

Light Requirements: Full

Management

Toxity: No

Invasive Potential: No

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: Yes

Pruning Requirement: Needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Surface Rooting: No

Life Span: 25-50 years

Edible Parts:

Plant Propagations: Division
