

## Caryota mitis

### (Fishtail palm)

Fishtail Palms grow fine in full sun to deep shade, requiring only that the soil be well-drained and reasonably fertile. It is not a palm for a plant-and-forget situation. It has a moderate to rapid growth rate and should be located outdoors in a sheltered location, protected from temperatures less than about 35 degrees F. Unfortunately, the palm is susceptible to lethal yellowing disease which kills many palms. In addition, it is monocarpic, so a stem dies after it flowers. This stem must be removed to maintain a neat appearance. Some have one trunk, others are multi-trunked. Fruit may be poisonous if ingested. Fruit can cause severe skin irritation. Pollen causes some allergies.



Plant Image

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#### Landscape Information

**French Name:** Palmier à sucre

**Pronunciation:** kair-ee-OH-tuh ME-tis

**Plant Type:** Palm

**Origin:** Southeast Asia

**Heat Zones:** 10, 11, 12

**Hardiness Zones:** 10, 11, 12

**Uses:** Specimen, Container, Wildlife

#### Size/Shape

**Growth Rate:** Moderate

**Tree Shape:** oval

**Canopy Symmetry:** Irregular

**Canopy Density:** Medium

**Canopy Texture:** Coarse

**Height at Maturity:** 3 to 5 m

**Spread at Maturity:** 3 to 5 meters

**Time to Ultimate Height:** 10 to 20 Years

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Leaf Image

© Photo by Monika Fabian

## Botanical Description

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### Foliage

**Leaf Arrangement:** Spiral  
**Leaf Venation:** Reticualte  
**Leaf Persistance:** Evergreen  
**Leaf Type:** Odd Pinnately compound  
**Leaf Blade:** 5 - 10 cm  
**Leaf Shape:** Star  
**Leaf Margins:** Incised  
**Leaf Textures:** Smooth  
**Leaf Scent:** Unpleasant

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### Flower

**Flower Showiness:** False  
**Flower Size Range:** 0 - 1.5  
**Flower Type:** Catkin  
**Flower Sexuality:** Monoecious (Bisexual)  
**Flower Scent:** No Fragrance  
**Flower Color:** White  
**Seasons:** Spring

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### Trunk

**Trunk Has Crownshaft:** False  
**Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage:** Suspected to breakage  
**Number of Trunks:** Multi-Trunked  
**Trunk Esthetic Values:** Showy

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### Fruit

**Fruit Type:** Drupe  
**Fruit Showiness:** False  
**Fruit Size Range:** 1.5 - 3  
**Fruit Colors:** Red, Black  
**Seasons:** Spring

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© Photo by Monika Fabian

Fruit Image

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**Horticulture Management**

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**Tolerance**

**Frost Tolerant:** No

**Heat Tolerant:** Yes

**Drought Tolerant:** No

**Requirements**

**Soil Requirements:** Clay, Loam, Sand

**Soil Ph Requirements:** Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline

**Water Requirements:** High, Moderate

**Light Requirements:** Full, Part

**Management**

**Toxity:** Yes

**Invasive Potential:** No

**Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases:** Yes

**Mowing Height:** 5 - 7 cm

**Pruning Requirement:** No pruning at all

**Surface Rooting:** No

**Life Span:** 25-50 years

**Edible Parts:**

**Pests:** Nematodes, Thrips

**Plant Propagations:** Cutting

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## MORE IMAGES



Bark Image



Other Image