

Beaucarnea recurvata

(Ponytail, Elephant's foot tree)

Ponytail palm is an evergreen shrub or tree that is native to semi-desert areas of Mexico, where it can reach 8-10 m. In cold climates it is commonly grown as a houseplant. Although its common name, ponytail palm is not a true palm. It is noted for having a large, swollen, often flask-shaped, water-retaining base from which rises a trunk-like stem growing narrow, flat, palm-like leaves. The cascading nature of the leaves gives much the appearance of a pony's tail. Old plants may produce tiny creamy white flowers in clusters. Flowers rarely appear on houseplants. The plant can make a good centerpiece whether grown as a specimen, a container plant, near patios, or placed in rock gardens.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Pied d'éléphant, Arbre bouteille

Pronunciation: boe-KAR-nee-uh reck-er-VAY-tuh

Plant Type: Palm

Origin: Mexico

Heat Zones: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Hardiness Zones: 10, 11, 12

Uses: Specimen, Indoor, Container

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Slow

Tree Shape: Palm

Canopy Symmetry: Irregular

Canopy Density: Open

Canopy Texture: Fine

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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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Spiral

Leaf Venation: Parallel

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 50 - 80

Leaf Shape: Linear

Leaf Margins: Serrate

Leaf Textures: Coarse

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 10 - 20

Flower Type: Panicle

Flower Sexuality: Diecious (Monosexual)

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: Multi-Trunked

Trunk Esthetic Values: Showy

Fruit

Fruit Type: Capsule

Fruit Showiness: False

Fruit Size Range: 0 - 1.5

Fruit Colors: Red

Seasons: Spring, Summer

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Moderate

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Low

Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management

Toxity: No

Invasive Potential: No

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No

Pruning Requirement: No pruning at all

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Surface Rooting: No

Life Span: 25-50 years

Edible Parts:

Pests: Mites, Scales, Mealy-Bug

Plant Propagations: Seed

MORE IMAGES



Bark Image



Other Image