



Bacchus Palms

Beautiful palms, cycads and subtropical plants from New Zealand's Far North

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***Archontophoenix alexandrae* (King Palm)**

A tall and attractive species from tropical Queensland which, despite its origins, performs very well in northern New Zealand. In many ways a better looking palm than the more common Bangalow Palm..

Origin	Northeast coast of Queensland. Generally in rainforest from sea-level to c.600m.		
Form and size	Solitary, tall to c.20m. Similar looking to <i>A. cunninghamiana</i> (Bangalow palm) but leaves are silver underneath and a more tropical appearance.		
Preferred habitat	Outdoors with some protection from wind. Looks best if grown in groups and in sheltered gullies. Water well in summer. Grows well in almost frost-free areas in northern New Zealand.		

Growth rate	Fast	Sea winds	Low tolerance
Outdoors	Yes	Sun	Good tolerance
Indoors	Yes (well-lit position)	Dryness	Some tolerance
Wind	Some tolerance	Frost	Light frost only



***Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* (Bangalow Palm)**

A familiar sight in the upper North Island, the Bangalow Palm is tough and handles our climate well. A particularly striking palm if planted in clumps out of the prevailing wind.

Origin	East coast of Australia from southern NSW to the east coast of Central Queensland.		
Form and size	Solitary, tall to c.20m.		
Preferred habitat	Outdoors with some protection from wind. Looks best if grown in groups and in sheltered gullies. Water well in summer. Grows well in almost frost-free areas in northern New Zealand.		

Growth rate	Fast	Sea winds	Low tolerance
Outdoors	Yes	Sun	Good tolerance
Indoors	Yes (well-lit position)	Dryness	Some tolerance
Wind	Some tolerance	Frost	Light frost only



***Butia capitata* (Jelly Palm)**

Reliable and tough palm capable of handling practically anything New Zealand conditions can throw at it. Colours vary from green to grey to a rather striking blue.

Origin	South-eastern Brazil down to borders with Uruguay.		
Form and size	Solitary, stout with trunk to c.5m. Plants vary from green to blue and almost silver.		
Preferred habitat	Outdoors in full sun. Grows well in all but the very coldest parts of New Zealand.		

Growth rate	Slow	Sea winds	Very good tolerance
Outdoors	Yes	Sun	Excellent tolerance
Indoors	No	Dryness	Very good tolerance
Wind	Excellent tolerance	Frost	To -12°C



***Chamaedorea elegans* (Parlour Palm)**

The Parlour Palm is perhaps the best known indoor palm in the world. Having experimented with older plants we've discovered that they also perform well as bedding plants in dark, forest-like locations.

Origin	Mexico, Guatemala and Belize.		
Form and size	Small, solitary palm to 2m with age.		
Preferred habitat	Best as an indoor plant. Will grow outdoors in particularly warm and sheltered gardens.		

Growth rate	Slow	Sea winds	No tolerance
Outdoors	Only in warm locations	Sun	No tolerance
Indoors	Yes (no direct sunlight)	Dryness	Low tolerance
Wind	Low tolerance	Frost	No tolerance



Chamaedorea metallica (Metallic Palm)

A gorgeous little palm which, as the name suggests, takes on a black or metallic colour when grown in a dark location.

Origin Mexico.

Form and size Small, solitary palm to c.1m with age.

Preferred habitat Best as an indoor plant. Will grow outdoors in warm, sheltered gardens in Auckland and Northland. Outdoors plant in heavily shaded locations.

Growth rate	Slow	Sea winds	No tolerance
Outdoors	Yes	Sun	No tolerance
Indoors	Yes (no direct sunlight)	Dryness	Low tolerance
Wind	Low tolerance	Frost	Light frost only



Chamaedorea microspadix (Hardy Bamboo Palm)

For such an easy to grow and exotic looking palm we're surprised that the Hardy Bamboo Palm isn't seen in every garden. Ideal for screening off the neighbours or as a centrepiece on a lawn. And no, it doesn't spread like bamboo!

Origin Mexico.

Form and size Clustering palm to 3m.

Preferred habitat Outdoors in semi-shaded position out of strong winds. Very hardy and suitable for the majority of New Zealand.

Growth rate	Medium	Sea winds	Low tolerance
Outdoors	Yes	Sun	Some tolerance
Indoors	Yes (no direct sunlight)	Dryness	Some tolerance
Wind	Some tolerance	Frost	To -5°C



Dypsis lutescens (Golden Cane Palm)

A large and well-grown Golden Cane with thick trunks and arching yellow leaves it is unbeatable. One of the best choices as an indoor plant in high-ceilinged offices and shopping centres it is remarkably underutilised.

Origin Madagascar in coastal forest.

Form and size Clustering palm to 10m.

Preferred habitat Indoors in a warm, sunny position. Ideal as a display plant in shopping centres. Not frost tolerant and will struggle to grow outdoors in all but the warmest microclimates. *Dypsis baronii* is a more suitable plant for outdoors.

Growth rate	Medium	Sea winds	N/A
Outdoors	No	Sun	Very good tolerance
Indoors	Yes (well-lit position)	Dryness	Good tolerance
Wind	N/A	Frost	Very low tolerance



Livistona chinensis (Chinese Fan Palm)

One of the most graceful fan palms – particularly if grown in a shaded position – the Chinese Fan Palm is hardier than it looks and deserves to be grown more often. With drooping tips to the leaves it has a very tropical look.

Origin Japan, Taiwan and the Ryukyu Islands.

Form and size Solitary palm to around 10m.

Preferred habitat Outdoors in both sunny and shady positions. Looks best however if grown in shady, sheltered gullies where the arching fronds grow even larger. Also suitable for indoor use when young.

Growth rate	Medium to slow	Sea winds	Good tolerance
Outdoors	Yes	Sun	Good tolerance
Indoors	Yes (well-lit position)	Dryness	Good tolerance
Wind	Good tolerance	Frost	To -5°C



Phoenix roebelenii (Pygmy Date Palm)

A relatively small and attractive palm the Pygmy Date Palm only really begins to show itself off once it forms a decent trunk of several feet. With age they develop into truly beautiful dwarf versions of the giant date palm.

Origin Laos.

Form and size Solitary palm to 3m.

Preferred habitat Outdoors in semi-shaded position. Grows well in most coastal and temperate areas of the North Island.

Growth rate Slow

Sea winds Some tolerance

Outdoors Yes

Sun Very good tolerance

Indoors Yes (well-lit position)

Dryness Good tolerance

Wind Good tolerance

Frost To -3°C



Ravenea rivularis (Majesty Palm)

A large and fast growing palm from Madagascar which relishes warm weather and ample water. This palm should be grown much more than it is. The Majesty Palm is best suited to Auckland and Northland.

Origin Central Madagascar.

Form and size Solitary palm to 12m.

Preferred habitat Outdoors with protection from wind. Water the roots (not the crown) well in summer. Unsuitable for indoor use.

Growth rate Fast

Sea winds Low tolerance

Outdoors Yes

Sun Good tolerance

Indoors No

Dryness Low tolerance

Wind Some tolerance

Frost Light frost only



Rhapis excelsa (Lady Palm)

A graceful, small, clustering fan palm suited to both indoor and outdoor use. As an indoor palm the Lady Palm is well suited to offices and the home while outdoors it's very much underused in New Zealand.

Origin Southern China and Taiwan.

Form and size Clustering fan palm to 3m.

Preferred habitat Remarkably tolerant of both indoor and outdoor conditions provided they have good shade. As an indoor plant *Rhapis* is probably the most suitable genus for low light conditions

Growth rate Slow

Sea winds Low tolerance

Outdoors Yes

Sun Low tolerance

Indoors Yes (no direct sunlight)

Dryness Low tolerance

Wind Some tolerance

Frost To -5°C



Syagrus romanzoffiana (Queen Palm)

Familiar in many parts of the North Island and renowned for its speed and reliability. A well-grown, mature Queen Palm is a sight to behold.

Origin Southern Brazil and Argentina.

Form and size Solitary palm to 12m.

Preferred habitat Outdoors in full sun. Grows well in most coastal and temperate areas of the North Island.

Growth rate Fast

Sea winds Good tolerance

Outdoors Yes

Sun Excellent tolerance

Indoors No

Dryness Very good tolerance

Wind Good tolerance

Frost To -4°C



***Washingtonia robusta* (Cotton Palm)**

Tough, fast growing and ideal as both a street planting and garden plant the Cotton Palm is deservedly popular the world over.

Origin	Desert and semi-arid areas in north-western Mexico.
Form and size	Solitary palm to 25m.
Preferred habitat	Outdoors in full sun. Grows well in most coastal and temperate areas of the North Island.

Growth rate	Fast	Sea winds	Good tolerance
Outdoors	Yes	Sun	Excellent tolerance
Indoors	No	Dryness	Very good tolerance
Wind	Good tolerance	Frost	To -4°C



***Beaucarnea recurvata* (Ponytail Palm)**

A popular palm lookalike, the Ponytail Palm is usually sold as a small pot plant. Older plants can grow remarkable large.

Origin	Eastern Mexico.
Form and size	Solitary, often branching with age. Eventually to over 3m (8m in the right climate) with a massive, swollen base. Not a palm but a member of the lily family.
Preferred habitat	Outdoors in full sun. Grows well in most coastal and temperate areas of the North Island.

Growth rate	Slow	Sea winds	Good tolerance
Outdoors	Yes	Sun	Excellent tolerance
Indoors	Yes (well-lit position)	Dryness	Excellent tolerance
Wind	Good tolerance	Frost	Light frost only

