Chinese Fan Palm

Livistona chinensis

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 12 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Fountain Palm

Description:

This variety produces beautiful, deep green palmate leaves that are deeply divided into long ribbons that sway on gentle breezes; a nice tropical screen when young, but will ascend on a tall single trunk in time; a lovely landscape accent



Chinese Fan Palm
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Chinese Fan Palm is primarily valued in the landscape for its canopy of attractive foliage which towers high above the ground. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage. The glossy lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.



Chinese Fan Palm foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Chinese Fan Palm is an evergreen tree with a strong central leader and a towering form, with a high canopy of foliage concentrated at the top of the plant. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This tree will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Chinese Fan Palm is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Vertical Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Chinese Fan Palm
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Chinese Fan Palm will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 feet. It has a high canopy of foliage that sits well above the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Chinese Fan Palm is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.