Windmill Palm

Trachycarpus fortunei



Windmill Palm
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: Chusan Palm

Description:

This robust palm makes a great landscape accent; tolerates drought and adapts to a wide variety of soils; a very hardy palm that is quite resistant to cold spells

Ornamental Features

Windmill Palm features showy panicles of yellow flowers hanging below the branches in mid summer. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage. The lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. The fruits are showy navy blue drupes displayed from late summer to mid fall.



Windmill Palm
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Windmill 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 is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Windmill Palm is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Vertical Accent
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Windmill Palm will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a high canopy of foliage that sits well above the ground, and should not be planted underneath 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 slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more. This is a dioecious species, meaning that individual plants are either male or female. Only the females will produce fruit, and a male variety of the same species is required nearby as a pollinator.

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 highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.

Windmill 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.