Mule Palm

Butiagrus nabonnandii



Mule Palm
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 25 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Butia x Syagrus, X Butiagrus nabonnandii

Description:

This variety is an inter-generic hybrid with gracefully arching feather type leaves; remarkably cold hardy; rarely produces seed and is nearly always sterile; needs full sun; an excellent accent tree for a tropical look in a cooler climate area



Mule Palm
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Mule Palm features showy panicles of creamy white flowers held atop the branches in mid summer. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage. The narrow pinnately compound leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. The fruits are showy orange drupes carried in abundance from late summer to mid fall. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up.

Landscape Attributes

Mule 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. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone.

This is a high maintenance tree that will require regular care and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Mule Palm is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Vertical Accent
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Mule Palm will grow to be about 25 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a high canopy with a typical clearance of 6 feet from 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 medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. 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.

Mule 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.