

Botanical Name: Phoenix dactylifera

Common Name: Date palm

Type of Plant: monocot: treelike Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a clumping feather palm (often grown as single-trunk form),
with upright slender stalks and stiff fronds forming a distinctive cluster if
suckers not removed; not self-cleaning

Height 25'-40' (80') Spread 1/4 - 1/3 Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors thrives in full sun - hot inland habitats; tolerates light
shade

Soil prefers fast-draining locales; tolerates clay if not over-
watered

Hardiness some frost (zones 9, 11, 12-24): best in hot desert sites

Morphology:

Leaves long stiff feather-shaped fronds, gray-green, with basal
pinnae reduced to narrow spine-like structures; to 10'-12' long; fronds mostly
straight rather than recurved

Flowers plants dioecious; flowers small, yellowish, on rather short
intricate panicles; summer

Fruit the classic 'date' (drupe); shape and color varies with
variety

Propagation: seed or division of a clump

Usage: in low desert areas, is widely used as a large-scale
vertical accent in tropical/desert themes for its dramatic silhouette and gray-
green leaves; is faster growing & more slender than the related P. canariensis

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular if grown on sandy soils in warm areas;
tolerates considerable drought

Fertilizing little required as an ornamental; use balanced for
promoting fruit production

Pruning remove old fronds; remove basal suckers if a single trunk
form is desired

Pests/Diseases relatively free; crown rot in poorly-drained sites

Special Conditions

Origin: Egypt, Arabian Peninsula Family: Areaceae