

Botanical Name: Cordyline australis (Dracaena indivisa)

Common Name: Dracaena palm, Giant dracaena

Type of Plant: monocot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an erect, single or multi-trunked plant, with clumps of  
narrow sword-shaped leaves at end of trunk(s); if left alone, is mostly single-  
trunked; multitruunked if trained; plant is self-cleaning; not a true palm

Height 15'-25' (30') Spread 1/4-1/2 Growth Rate slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full or partial sun; avoid deeply shaded sites

Soil thrives in well-draining habitats; avoid wet heavy soils

Hardiness hardy (zones 5,8-11,14-24); prefers warm coastal climate locations

Morphology:

Leaves narrow, sword-like, 3'-4' long; 2"-5" wide; medium green, fairly stiff;  
the upper leaves are erect, lower leaves spreading and drooping from the trunk

Flowers creamy white, tiny (1/4" in diam.), in large showy terminal erect or  
drooping panicles which are much-divided; fragrant; mostly late spring-summer

Fruit a berry: 1/4"-1/2" diameter, whitish-bluish white, round

Propagation: seed

Usage: a striking accent tree, valued for its form and foliage; excellent for our  
tropical, subtropical, or desert-theme gardens; tub plant, silhouette; plant  
in clumps for a more dramatic effect

Landscape Care:

Watering regular is preferred; the plant tolerates considerable drought after  
established; avoid excessive watering in heavy soils

Fertilizing little is required except if overwatered; use balanced fertilizer

Pruning leave alone except to remove old leaves or inflorescences

Pests/Diseases subject to crown rot in sites with poorly drained soils

Special Conditions excellent when used with Spanish-style architecture

Origin: widespread in warmer areas of New Zealand Family: Agavaceae