

Botanical Name: Sabal palmetto

Common Name: Cabbage palm

Type of Plant: monocot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a single-trunked fan palm, not self-cleaning; large  
pleated-folded fronds arch outward from a stout trunk to form a full canopy;  
overall appearance resembles a short Washingtonia robusta

Height 15'-20'(25') Spread 8'-10' Growth Rate slow-moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors best in full sun; tolerates some shade at inland locations

Soil prefers well-draining sites; avoid strongly alkaline soils

Hardiness hardy (zones 10, 12-17, 19-24): thrives in hot humid areas

Morphology:

Leaves large fan-shaped fronds, 5'-8' long, bright green, with  
unarmed petioles; fronds are strongly recurved and infolded

Flowers creamy white, small, in rather short (1'-3' long) panicles;  
summer months

Fruit a drupe: small (1/4"), black when ripe

Propagation: seed

Usage: a tropical vertical accent tree; distinctive for its large  
stiff green foliage with the conspicuous infolding ("pleating"); use as a  
substitute for Washington robusta when a shorter palm is needed

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular; tolerates some drought

Fertilizing little required unless heavily irrigated

Pruning remove old fronds and flower stalks as needed

Pests/Diseases crown rot in poorly-drained locations

Special Conditions

Origin: southeast U.S.A. Family: Areaceae