

Botanical Name: Phoenix roebelenii

Common Name: Pygmy Date Palm

Type of Plant: monocot: treelike Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an upright, single or multi-trunked, slender feather palm;  
not self-cleaning; fronds arch outward to form a loose, rounded, fernlike  
canopy; stems are 2"-6" diameter, roughened by the old petiole bases

Height to 6' (8') Spread 1/2 - 3/4 Growth Rate very slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoors partial sun or shade; full sun only along the coast

Soil loose, sandy loam; grows poorly in wet adobe soils

Hardiness tender (zones 23-24): use as indoor plant inland

Morphology:

Leaves feather-type fronds: fine-textured, glossy bright green,  
2'-4' long, unarmed petioles; about 40-50 pinnae on each side, soft, bright  
green; pinnae are borne in a single plane; 8"-10" long

Flowers the plant is dioecious; flowers are inconspicuous, in  
small panicles between the fronds; summer

Fruit a drupe: oval-round, 1/2" diameter, black when ripe

Propagation: seed

Usage: an excellent dwarf accent palm prized for small-area  
tropical effects; a very good container plant, for patios or indoors

Landscape Care:

Watering regular is preferred; the plant is not very drought  
tolerant

Fertilizing as needed; use a mild organic fertilizer or slow-release  
type if grown in a pot

Pruning none, except to remove old dead fronds

Pests/Diseases outside: relatively free; indoors: scale, mealybug, spider  
mite

Special Conditions

Origin: Laos Family: Arecaceae