

Botanical Name: Brahea armata

Common Name: Mexican Blue Palm

Type of Plant: monocot: treelike Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an erect, single-trunked, non-self-cleaning fan palm;

develops a stout (2' - 3') trunk and a crown of arching, stiff, blue fronds

Height 15'-30' (40') Spread 1/3 - 1/2 Growth Rate slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun; requires heat

Soil well-draining sandy loam preferred; tolerates most

Hardiness hardy (zones 3-17, 19-24): thrives in hot desert locations

Morphology:

Leaves fan-shaped fronds: 3' - 6' wide, 6' - 10' long, strongly

glaucous (blue-silver); the petioles are heavily armed with saw-like teeth

Flowers purple, small, in long arching panicles that extend

beyond the foliage; summer

Fruit a drupe: round, 1/2" diameter, hard when ripe

Propagation: seed (slow)

Usage: an excellent accent palm valued for its distinctive

blue-silver foliage; suitable for tropical or desert-theme

Landscape Care:

Watering regular if drainage is good, becomes very drought-

resistant after established

Fertilizing very little is required

Pruning remove old dead fronds and flower panicles

Pests/Diseases relatively free; root and crown rot in poorly drained soils

Special Conditions riparian habitats in the desert canyons of

Origin: Baja Calif. Family: Arecaceae