

Planting advice for palms

Thank you for buying our palms. I do hope you like them and get many years of pleasure from them. Here are a few tips that might be helpful.

With palms that are being grown in a container, inside or out, I recommend the use of John Innes No3 compost. It contains all the nutrients a tree requires for a year. After which time fresh compost should be added and the palm possibly moved to a slightly larger pot to allow for root development. Chicken manure pellet is an excellent fertiliser with a high nitrogen value and ideal for palms. Phostrogen is also a very good plant food.

When trees are kept inside in hot dry conditions they can be prone to attack by red spider mite which will damage the leaf cells, discolouring them. One solution is to stand the tree outside in the rain or to spray the leaves with water, not forgetting the undersides.

You will notice the older leaves at the bottom of the trunk turn yellow and die back in time. This is perfectly natural. Just trim them off close to the trunk with secateurs. All new growth emerges from the top of the trunk as leaf spears.

Some palms like *Chamaerops humilis* and *Jubaea chilensis* develop a large root to leaf ratio and this tends to push the crown of the plant out of the pot exposing root at the base of the trunk. If this is unchecked it will result in the palm being unstable and will weaken it. It is important to keep the plant low in the pot to avoid this happening. Sometimes this can be achieved by using deep pots. Planting deeply into the ground is the best solution if the tree is old enough to go outside.

Some palm trees will tolerate being containerised more than others. These are just an example:

Butia capitata,
Chamaerops humilis,
Chamaedorea radicalis,
Chamaedorea microspadix,
Phoenix canariensis,

The *Trachycarpus* genus prefers to go into the ground, but with care can be containerised.

All palms when small are perfectly happy in a container pot but when they reach specimen size at about 1 metre they will grow far better in the ground and be easier to care for. No need to water as often and less chance of the roots being frozen in winter.

Finally don't overwater palms in the pot; the compost should be moist but not standing in a saucer of water.

