PLANT FACT SHEET

Dictyosperma alba (Bory) H. Wendl. & Drude ex Scheff.

GENUS *Dictyosperma* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Princess palm, Hurricane palm, Red palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Cabbage, Palm heart, Vegetable

The palm heart is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

It is a tall slender palm. It has a dark grey, ringed trunk. It grows 10-20 m high. The trunk is expanded at the base. The trunk is 10 cm across. The crown-shaft is bright green, whitish or red. It is often softly woolly. The fronds can be 3 m long. The fronds have leaflets along the stalk. They are often reddish when young. The youngest developing frond stands erect. The leaflets taper to a point. They bare often divided into 2 thin points. The flowering stalk arises below the crown-shaft. It is 40-100 cm long with many branches. The flowers are large and fragrant. They are cream or reddish. The flowers are in groups of 3 with one female between 2 male flowers. The fruit are oval and purplish-black. They are 16-18 mm long and 8-10 mm across. They occur in large clusters. Some named varieties occur.

HABITAT

It grows in tropical and subtropical places. It is cold sensitive. It can tolerate salt-laden winds. It needs well drained rich soil. It needs a warm sunny position. It cannot tolerate drought. It grows in lowlands and up to 600 m above sea level. In Cairns Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 10-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seed germinate in 2-3 months.

NOTES

There is only one Dictyosperma species. This plant is almost extinct in the wild.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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