PLANT FACT SHEET

Trachycarpus fortunei (Hook. f.) H. A. Wendl.

GENUS *Trachycarpus* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese Windmill palm, Fortune's chusan-palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Cabbage, Palm heart, Seeds

The flowers are edible. The young flower buds are eaten like bamboo shoots. They are also marinated in honey and vinegar.
The terminal bud is eaten.
A tea drink made from the seeds is used to make blood pressure normal.

DESCRIPTION

A fan palm. It has a slender trunk. It grows 9-15 m tall and spreads 2.5-3 m wide. The leaves are fan shaped. The leaves are mid green and 1 m long by 1 m wide. They are pleated and split at the ends. This gives a jagged tooth-like appearance. The leaf stalks are sharply toothed and 1 m long. These arch out from the top of an upright stem. The trunk is covered with the remains of the dead leaves. Male and female flowers are on separate trees. The flowers are small and yellow. They occur in large dense clusters that can be 60 cm long. The fruit are small and blue-black and date-like. They are 1 cm long and kidney shaped.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate plant. It is native to C. & S. China. It can tolerate cold. They can tolerate temperatures as low as -15°C. It is very difficult to grow in the tropics. It suits hardiness zones 8-11. Arboretum Tasmania. Hobart Botanical Gardens. Melbourne Botanical Gardens. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seed germinate easily. Plants grow alone rarely produce seed.

NOTES

There are 6-8 Trachycarpus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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