PLANT FACT SHEET

Roystonea borinquena O. F. Cook

GENUS *Roystonea* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Puerto Rican royal palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Cabbage, Palm heart

DESCRIPTION

A solitary palm. The trunk is stout and tall. It bulges above the middle. It grows 15 m high. The trunk is 45 cm across. The crown-shaft is long. It is 1.6 m tall. The fronds are feathery. The leaflets are glossy green on the upper surface. The leaflets are arranged in many ranks. The fruiting stalk arises below the crown-shaft. The flowers are of one sex but both sexes occur on the one stalk. The flowers are densely crowded. The fruit are pale brown. Each fruit contains one seed.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It is cold sensitive. It grows on savannas and cleared areas of limestone hills. It grows from sea level to 850 m altitude in the US Virgin Islands. In the Cairns Botanical Gardens. In Townsville palmetum. It suits hardiness zones 10-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Single palms can produce fertile seed. Fresh seed germinate in 1-4 months.

NOTES

There are 10 Roystonea species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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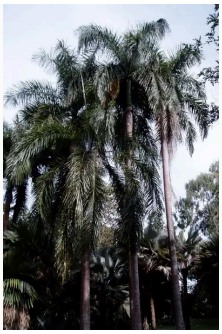

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