PLANT FACT SHEET

Archontophoenix cunninghamiana (Wendl.) Wendl. & Drude

GENUS *Archontophoenix* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Bangalow palm, Piccabeen palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots, Palm heart

The young shoots just coming out of the ground can be eaten raw. As this kills the palm it is not normally useful.

DESCRIPTION

A tall single stemmed feather leafed palm. It has a bright green to rusty brown crown shaft formed by the leaf sheaths. This is 1 m long. The fronds are long and curved and form an umbrella shaped crown. The trunk is brown to grey. It grows to 25 m tall and is 30 cm across. It has rings of leaf scars along the trunk. The leaves are 2-4 m long and divided into drooping leaflets along its length. The leaflets are 60-100 cm long and 5-10 cm wide. They have long pointed tips. The leaf stalk twists along its length making the end fronds vertical. The flowering stalk is large and branched. It is 40-90 cm long. Several flowering stalks are often present at the same time. Two large papery bracts which are thin and pointed enclose the flowers but fall before flowers open. The flowers are pink, stalk-less and 1 cm across. Male and female flowers are on the same stalk. They are in spiral arrangements of irregular groups of 3. The fruit are orange red when ripe. They are 10-15 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate and subtropical plant. It grows along stream banks. In northern Australia it grows from sea level to 700 m altitude. They require well-drained soil. They need high humidity. It suits hardiness zones 10-11. In Melbourne Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from fresh seed. Seed germinate within 6 months. Seedlings do not transplant easily.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Seedlings grow quickly.

NOTES

There are 6 Archontophoenix species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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