PLANT FACT SHEET

Ptychosperma elegans (R. Brown) Blume

GENUS *Ptychosperma* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Solitaire palm, Alexander Palm, Seaforthia palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Palm heart

The young unexpanded leaves are eaten as a vegetable.
The flesh of the red fruit is edible.

DESCRIPTION

A solitary palm which grows to 10 m high. The trunk is slender and grey. It is 7-20 cm across. The trunk has rings along it. The crown-shaft is whitish-green. The leaves are bright green and arching. The leaves are compound. They are 1-2.5 m long. There are 40-60 leaflets which are 50-60 cm long. They are smooth. The fruit is 15-20 mm long. They occur in bunches below the crown-shaft. The fruit are bright red. There is one seed which is about 15 mm long. The flesh of the fruit is edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the rainforest in NE Queensland, in Australia. They will grow in the subtropics. It needs well drained soil. It can grow in part shade or full sun. It suits seasonally moist and dry climates. In the Cairns Botanical Gardens. In Townsville palmetum. They are sensitive to frost. It suits plant hardiness zones 10-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from fresh seed. Seed is produced in large quantities and grows readily. Seed germinate in 5-6 months. They need protection from direct sunlight for the first 2-4 years. Seedlings transplant easily.

Harvesting and Seed Production

They can be very fast growing. It flowers in warm, wet months.

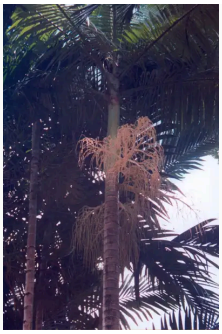
PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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