PLANT FACT SHEET

Beccariophoenix madagascariensis Jum. & H. Perrier

GENUS *Beccariophoenix* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Window-palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Palm heart, Cabbage, Fruit, Sap

The sap of the trunk is used to prepare a sweet drink.

DESCRIPTION

A solitary palm. It grows 2-12 m high. The trunk is 24-35 cm across. The trunk is covered with old leaf bases and tightly woven brown fibres. The leaves are mostly upright and divided into leaflets along the stalk. The leaves are green and 5 m long. They grow almost directly from the top of the trunk. The leaflets are regularly spaced. They are narrow sword shaped and wavy along the edge. They are 1 m long. They are usually divided at the tips. They are bright green above and silvery grey underneath. The flowers are unisexual. The fruit are carried among the leaves. They are 3-4 cm long and oval. They are purple-brown when ripe. The fruit have 3 openings or pores, like coconut.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows between 900-1200 m altitude in Madagascar. It suits mountain slopes and forest locations. It grows on sandy soil. It suits hardiness zones 10-11. It requires moderate moisture. It needs fertile, well drained soil. It suits bright filtered light. In Townsville palmetum.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Seeds are large and germinate without difficulty.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Seedling growth is moderate.

NOTES

There is only one Beccariophoenix species. It is an endangered species and it should not be harvested for the growing tip.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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