PLANT FACT SHEET

Saribus rotundifolius (Lam.) Mart., Becc.

GENUS *Saribus* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Footstool palm, Java fan palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Cabbage, Trunk-starch, Palm heart, Fruit

The buds are cooked and eaten. The bud is eaten raw or cooked.
The fruit are eaten raw.
Starch can be extracted from the trunk. The starch from the trunk is used for flour.

DESCRIPTION

A tall graceful palm with fan shaped leaves. It grows 24 m high. It has a slender trunk with prominent white rings. The leaves of the adult plants are spiny in their basal parts but spineless elsewhere. The leaves are glossy. When young, the leaves are only shallowly divided and have drooping tips. Older leaves become tattered by the wind. The flower clusters hang from the axils of leaves. The flowers are very small about 2 mm across. The fruit are round and dark violet. There is one species and 3 varieties. The fruit is 12 to 15 mm across and the kernel along is 10 to 13 mm across. The seed is 8 to 10 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. They are widely distributed but grow naturally in forested areas and are of somewhat local occurrence in the Philippines. In Cairns Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. Adelaide Botanical Gardens. In Townsville palmetum.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seed germinate in 2 months.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Seedlings grow slowly.

NOTES

There are 28 Livistona species.

PICTURES



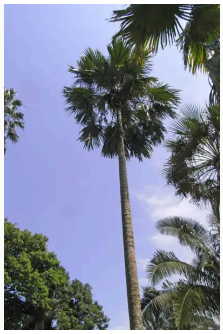
Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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