PLANT FACT SHEET

Phoenix canariensis Horta ex Chabaud

GENUS *Phoenix* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Canary Island Date Palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Sap, Shoots, Male flowers, Seeds

The fruit are reported to have an edible outer pericarp. They are a famine food.
The sap can be used for syrup or palm honey.

DESCRIPTION

A large palm. It has a single, stout woody trunk. It grows to 20 m tall. The trunk can be 70 cm across. There is a diamond pattern of leaf scars down the trunk. The crown can have 100 leaves. The fronds are long and dull green. Leaves can be 6 m long. They are divided into leaflets along the stalk. The fronds are spiny at the base. The leaflets are directed upwards and forward. The flowering stalks are produced among the leaf bases. The flowers are creamy yellow. Male and female trees are needed for fruit. The fruit occur in large clusters. They are a golden colour. They grow among the leaves. The fruit are 2 cm long and 1 cm across.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate plant. It will tolerate hot dry conditions in inland Australia. It is very frost hardy and thrives on poor soils. It needs good drainage. In the Canary Island it grows to 700 m altitude. In Melbourne Botanical Gardens. In Hobart Botanical gardens. It suits plant hardiness zones 8-11. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seed germinates readily. It takes 1-2 months to germinate. In tropical locations suckers can be used.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit weigh 1.7 g.

NOTES

There are 17 Phoenix species. The seeds contain a fat.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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