

# *Carpentaria acuminata*: Carpentaria Palm<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

This fast-growing palm tree quickly grows to a height of 40 feet, the smooth grey trunk topped with 10-foot-long, spreading green fronds. The inconspicuous white flowers appear from spring through fall and are followed by the production of bright red fruits which are less than one-inch-long. The juice from these fruits can cause a skin irritation. Once highly recommended as a replacement for the Christmas Palm which is very susceptible to lethal yellowing disease, Carpentaria Palm apparently requires a richer soil than many landscapes can provide. It is also susceptible to trunk cracks in cool weather, a condition which opens the trunk to decay organisms.

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Carpentaria acuminata*

**Pronunciation:** kar-pen-TAIR-ee-uh  
ack-yoo-min-NAY-tuh

**Common name(s):** Carpentaria Palm

**Family:** *Arecaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10B through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Invasive potential:** little invasive potential

**Uses:** indoors; specimen; deck or patio; container or planter

**Availability:** not native to North America

## Description

**Height:** 35 to 40 feet

**Spread:** 8 to 10 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical

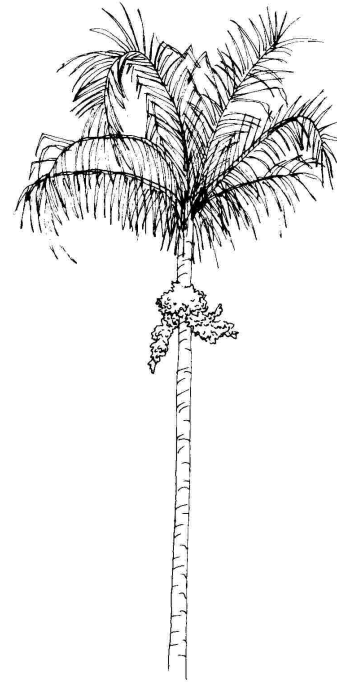


Figure 1. Mature *Carpentaria acuminata*: Carpentaria Palm

**Crown shape:** palm, upright/erect

**Crown density:** open

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** medium

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** spiral (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** odd-pinnately compound

**Leaf margin:** entire

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Figure 2. Range

**Leaf shape:** linear

**Leaf venation:** parallel

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** more than 36 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

## Flower

**Flower color:** white/cream/gray

**Flower characteristics:** not showy

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** round

**Fruit length:** .5 to 1 inch

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** red

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** branches don't droop; not showy; typically one trunk; thorns

**Pruning requirement:** little required

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** not applicable

**Current year twig thickness:**

**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

## Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; slightly alkaline; acidic; well-drained; occasionally wet

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** low

## Other

**Roots:** not a problem

**Winter interest:** no

**Outstanding tree:** no

**Ozone sensitivity:** unknown

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** resistant

**Pest resistance:** resistant to pests/diseases

## Use and Management

Carpentaria Palm is probably best suited for an occasional accent or specimen planting where temperatures stay warm in the winter. A number of them grouped together can be attractive. Choose the best soil on your site for planting this palm.

Carpentaria Palm should be grown in full sun on rich, moist but well-drained, fertile soil, and it has a low tolerance for salt and drought.

Propagation is by seeds.

## Pests

Thrips.

## Diseases

No diseases are of major concern.