Cabbage Palm

Sabal palmetto

Height: 60 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7b

Other Names: Cabbage Palmetto

Description:

This robust native palm makes a perfect landscape accent; tolerates drought and adapts to a wide variety of soils; quite resistant to cold spells as well; used frequently for beachside plantings

Ornamental Features

Cabbage Palm features showy panicles of creamy white flowers held atop the branches in mid fall. It has attractive grayish green evergreen foliage. The lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and remain grayish green throughout the winter. The fruits are showy black drupes displayed in late fall.

Landscape Attributes

Cabbage Palm is an evergreen tree with a strong central leader and a towering form, with a high canopy of foliage concentrated at the top of the plant. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Cabbage Palm is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Cabbage Palm
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Cabbage Palm will grow to be about 60 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a high canopy of foliage that sits well above the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.



Cabbage Palm flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America.

Cabbage Palm is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.