



Pacific Northwest Palm & Exotic Plant Society

10310 Hollybank Drive, Richmond BC V7E 4S5

www.hardypalm.com

Almost Hardy Palms

- **These all need winter protection (see Winter Protection Sheet)** when young, or temperatures dip below about -10C in all but mature specimens. Specimens of all of the species described below have survived many years in the Pacific Northwest, although most have yet to develop significant trunks.

- **However, they add new foliage or textural elements**, with extra work and risk.

- Most are very slow growing in our climate, acquire hardiness with age. We recommend buying the biggest specimen you can afford since they are hardier and their slow growth might mean only your grandchildren will see them as mature specimens!

Pinnate (feather) palms:

Butia odorata (formerly *B. capitata*) (Pindo or jelly palm, mature specimen below, left)

- Has beautiful recurved bluish foliage, produces edible fruit. Hardy to about -12C or lower on trunked specimens. Slow growth, so local 20 year old specimens are more the size of the photo below, right.



Jubaea chilensis (Chilean wine palm, mature specimen above, middle)

- Largest palm trunk in the world, resembling a Saturn 5 rocket – after 100 years! Hardy unprotected to about -15C when trunk has developed, more like -12C when the size of the 20 year old specimen, above right. Very slow growth, slower than *Butia*, but steady even in our cool summers.

Palmate (fan) palms:

Chamaerops humilis (Mediterranean fan palm)

- Many garden selections and subspecies, some hardier than others, but typically to about -12C or lower for mature specimens. A palm best suited to semiarid conditions so require excellent drainage for maximum hardiness. Very slow growth, eventually forming multiple trunks. See below left for local young specimen, eventual mature form after 40 years, right.



Washingtonia filifera/robusta

Common in California, these palms need heat to grow at a decent pace. Good drainage, winter protection every year is essential, and ultimately hardy to about -12C. Below left is a 20 year old specimen in Surrey BC, which has been protected every year.



Costapalmate (between pinnate and palmate)palms:

Sabal minor

Trunkless, hardy to at least -15C so winter protection isn't needed. Main issue is extremely slow growth unless summers are hot. Garden use as a large shrub (middle of middle photo above).

Sabal palmetto (Cabbage palmetto)

Trunked, faster growing than *S. minor*, but still very slow unless summers are hot. Large specimens are sometimes available, recommended. Hardy to about -12C (right of middle photo above).

Brahea armata, *B. edulis* (Blue hesper palm)

Desert palms, slow growth, need heat in summer to do their best. *B. armata* is hardier of the two but slower growth, foliage a beautiful blue colour. Hardy to about -12C or lower when mature.