

Screw Pine

GENERAL	
Origin	: tropical
Vigour	: slow-growing
Humidity	: semi-arid, semi-humid, very humid
Propagation	: cuttings
Maintenance	: low
CONDITIONS	
Urban climate	: vulnerable
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: medium
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (3000 ppm)
Hardiness	: +3°C
SHAPE	
Type	: shrub
Height	: 4 m-6 m
Spread	: 3 m-4 m
Foliage	: evergreen
FLOWER	
Colour	: white
Size	: 3 cm
Period	: February - April
Smell	: scented, flower
FRUIT	
Type of fruit	: berry
Fruit size	: 20 cm
Toxicity	: edible when processed

Native to Polynesia, the variegated Screw Pine is a slow-growing, suckering shrub up to 6 metres high, with thick aerial roots and distinctive green- and yellow-striped leaves. There are many species of the genus: *P. utilis* and *P. veitchii* are also successful in Arriyadh. This species has few branches and rarely flowers: it produces rosettes of arching, linear, spiny yellow leaves, up to 1 metre long, with green margins, when mature. Male and female flowers lack petals and are borne on separate plants. Female flowers resemble small, red-coloured pineapples when fertilised. The Screw Pine has a high drought tolerance, but grows well in moist, sandy, clayey, alkaline soils, even with high salinity. It does best with regular irrigation, minimal in winter, and fertilising monthly from spring to summer. It is a very adaptable plant, although it prefers hot, dry conditions; propagation is by cuttings, which root readily when placed directly in the soil. It is occasionally infested by scale insects. Amongst the uses of *Pandanus* are the leaves used for weaving material for clothes, dyes collected from the roots and treatment of inflammation. A palm-like tree, it makes a spectacular accent in garden landscapes, but requires sufficient space. It is also an attractive screen when planted on the edge of a lake. Very little maintenance is necessary when planted in groups in a park.

