

Pigmy Date Palm

The Pygmy Date Palm, native to southeast Asia, is one of the most commonly used kinds of dwarf palms. In Arriyadh, it is suitable for small gardens and courtyards, but needs some shade from the sun. A very long-lived, slow-growing slender tree up to 3 metres tall, this palm likes partial shade to full sun; morning sun is recommended. It has a dense crown of leaves that are 60–120 cm long, and pinnate with some 100 leaflets. Each leaflet is 15–25 cm long and 1 cm across, slightly drooping, and bright green in colour with scurfy pubescence below; the thorns at the base of the frond are very sharp. The flowers are small and yellowish: the fruit is a 1-cm drupe, resembling a small, thin-fleshed date. In nature, the trees are usually single-trunked, in cultivation multiple trunks are often produced. Very frost-tolerant for short periods of time, they are also drought- and saltwater-tolerant. They like a fertile, well-drained soil with moderate moisture levels and respond well to regular applications of fertiliser. The trees adapt to most soils and tolerate water-logging, clay, loam or sandy soils, low in nutrients. Regular irrigation is required. Propagation is by seed or division. The Pygmy Date Palm is generally pest- and disease-free. It requires little pruning to develop a strong structure; old and dead fronds should be trimmed below the spines. Graceful in appearance, *P. roebelenii* is a popular ornamental plant which looks well by poolsides, on patios, in shopping malls and office entrances, and is a perfect container plant.



GENERAL	
Origin	: sub-tropical, tropical
Vigour	: slow-growing
Humidity	: semi-humid, very humid, extremely humid
Propagation	: sowing and pricking out, division
Maintenance	: moderate
CONDITIONS	
Urban climate	: vulnerable
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: resistant
Irrigation	: medium
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (1800 ppm)
Hardiness	: -3°C
SHAPE	
Type	: palms
Height	: 2 m-5 m
Spread	: 3 m-4 m
Foliage	: evergreen
FLOWER	
Colour	: pale yellow
Size	: 40 cm
Period	: March - March
FRUIT	
Type of fruit	: drupe (leathery/fibrous)
Fruit size	: 1.2 cm
Toxicity	: inedible, fruit