



# NZPalms.co.nz

Beautiful palms, cycads and subtropical plants from New Zealand's Far North

## Selecting the right palm tree

Think first about the look you wish to create. We've some helpful suggestions and inspiration here:

<http://nzpalms.co.nz/inspiration>

The garden style will also determine the form of the palms you'll want; feather-leafed, fan and fishtail. Clustering or solitary, light or heavy, tall or short. We've a little advice on the different forms of palm tree here: <http://nzpalms.co.nz/types-of-palm-trees>

Make sure you know your local climate before planting:

[http://nzpalms.co.nz/download/i/mark\\_dl/u/4013479236/4630258606/NZ%20Climate%20Summary.xlsx](http://nzpalms.co.nz/download/i/mark_dl/u/4013479236/4630258606/NZ%20Climate%20Summary.xlsx)

Finally, check out some thoughts on how you might go about landscaping your garden:

<http://nzpalms.co.nz/landscaping-basics>

Our complete listing of palms for sale provides details on their unique requirements for successful growing: <http://nzpalms.co.nz/shop>

## Palm sizes and getting value for money

For most people, typical palm trees for indoors or outside will likely range from around 50cm for short, solid species to around 2.5m for taller growing species.

For any given species, the larger the palm the more expensive it'll be. You'll need to make a trade-off between size and price. Consider how much of an impression they'll make by taking a few bamboo stakes and marking out just how tall the plants will need to be. For 'solid' species (for example *Butia* and *Phoenix*) anything less than one metre tall just won't be noticed after it's been planted. For 'thin' species with narrower trunks you'll probably need to buy something around two metres tall for it to have any impact in your planting.

Remember that if you are purchasing a palm tree from a nursery it'll be sitting in a pot (and possibly on a slightly raised platform) so when planted it'll look considerably less impressive.

Prices can vary considerably between different species. As a guide, we'd suggest allowing between \$200 and \$250 for most solid, mid-sized palms as described above.

## Recognising a good quality palm tree

Begin with the trunk. It should be of uniform diameter and free from scars and damage caused by moving equipment. Some species do show narrowing towards the top of the trunk but it should not be excessively pronounced. The trunk should also be sturdy enough to withstand strong winds. The fronds should be healthy looking with signs of one or more new fronds emerging. The root-ball should be sufficiently large for the palm but avoid disproportionately large pots which suggest recent re-potting. In particular be wary of the following:

- Any palm tree with an infestation of pests (for example mealy-bug, scale or red spider mite).
- Skinny palms which look in perfect health. These are likely to be greenhouse grown and not hardened off (a process which can take several years). Such palms are prone to snapping in moderate winds and even when protected may take some years to look good.
- Palms that have been field-grown (planted in the ground then dug up and sold). Be sure that the palm you're buying has had a couple of years to recover and put on new growth.