

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### CAN YOU PLANT THEM DIRECTLY INTO THE GROUND?

If you live in Zone 7 or higher you can plant directly into garden. If you live in Zone 6, plant in pots for the first season and winter over inside. The following spring you can transplant into the ground. In Zones 5 or lower they will not winter over.

Windmill Palm or *Trachycarpus fortunei* has been cultivated in the mountains of southern China and Japan as high as 7,000 feet for thousands of years. It is grown for its coarse but very strong leaf sheath fiber, used for making ropes, sacks, and other coarse cloth where great strength is important. The extent of this cultivation means that the exact natural range of the species is uncertain. Its tolerance of cool summers makes it highly valued by palm enthusiasts as the palm that can be cultivated the furthest north in the world, being grown successfully in such cool and damp but relatively winter-mild locales as Scotland and the panhandle of Alaska.

### WHAT HAPPENS IN A DROUGHT?

Adequate moisture makes for rapid growth and best appearance but it is amazingly drought tolerant as well (although plants will appear stunted and growth rate dramatically slowed if regular watering is withheld).

### HOW DO YOU GROOM AND PRUNE THESE?

You should never prune the main stem unless the cold weather gets them. If you cut the main stem you will get new growth from the center and sides. Grooming should occur all year round when fronds get brown – and they will as new ones grow in bigger numbers. Just cut them away. It is that easy.

### IS THERE ANY GOOD PEST PREVENTION?

If these are grown inside they are subject to spider mites. Prevention is the rule. Once you bring them in begin bimonthly misting with a solution of soapy water will insure glossy pest free leaves. Mix one half teaspoon of standard liquid dish soap in quart spray bottle of water, shake, and mist the plant profusely.

## FIRST THINGS FIRST...

When your plant arrives from Roberta's, remove from the shipping box immediately.

Remove plastic bag and sleeve from around potted plant(s). Discard any packing material clinging to the leaves or soil. Pull away any yellow or brown leaves that may have occurred during transit. If you can not plant it into garden or larger pot within a few days, make sure it stays well watered.

When ready to plant, do the job as early in the day as possible to avoid extreme soil temperatures that prevent proper water uptake from the roots. Water them in well and whisper a few words of wisdom.

Thank you for your order!

Take your gardening experience to new heights by visiting Roberta's Unique Gardens. Our goal is to enhance your gardening enjoyment by providing you with top quality, leading edge perennials and annuals that are suitable for your garden and home with the best service imaginable.

Roberta's is a 4th generation family owned business and has been one of the leading commercial exhibitors at flower and garden shows for over 50 years in the U.S. and abroad. We search the globe to find easy-to-grow plants that are unique in themselves or their variety making them nearly impossible to find elsewhere. Our passion and commitment continually asks the question, "What makes a better, unsurpassed, and more beautiful flower to behold?"

Working with growers and breeders from all over the world, Roberta's is able to bring you hard-to-find plants and new species that will be sweethearts for years to come.

Thank you for bringing us into your home,

Eric, Kevin, and Koort Wallien



1-800-428-9726

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm EST

Thank you  
for bringing us into your home

.....  
[www.robortasinc.com](http://www.robortasinc.com)  
.....

## ROBERTA'S GARDENS

PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



Hardy Windmill Palm  
(*Trachycarpus fortunei*)

## QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE:	Full
USDA HARDINESS ZONES:	6-11
PLANTING DISTANCE:	10-12 feet
MATURE HEIGHT/SPREAD:	Height - 6 - 8' pots / 40' garden Spread - 5 - 6' pots / 10 to 12' garden
BLOOM TIME:	n/a
PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS: (soil preparation, depth, which end is up, etc.)	Unpack your plants immediately removing any packing material. Water thoroughly. Transplant into a larger 10 to 12 inch separate containers with adequate drainage holes.

## PLANTING GUIDE

1  
STEP

Unpack your plants immediately removing any packing material. Water thoroughly. Cut away any yellow or brown leaves or broken stems that may have occurred. This grooming is completely normal.

2  
STEP

Transplant into a larger 10 to 12 inch separate containers with adequate drainage holes. Water again. Otherwise plant them in the garden spacing 10-12 feet. Water them in well.

3  
STEP

You should place plants outside as long as evening temperatures stay above 45 degrees Fahrenheit. Plants prefer full sun or partial sun.

4  
STEP

These plants respond to regular weekly fertilizing with a balanced houseplant food that promotes growth and flowering.

These are hardy down to about plus 5F in pots without damaging the plant. In the garden they can withstand minus 5F.

## CONTINUING CARE

### SHELF LIFE

Remove plastic bag and sleeve from around potted plant(s). Discard any packing material clinging to the leaves or soil. Pull away any yellow or brown leaves that may have occurred during transit. If you can not plant it into garden or larger pot within a few days, make sure it stays well watered.

### POTTED PLANTS

Repot the plants into larger 10 to 12 inch pots separately. You can transplant gradually one pot size per year up to 20 inches in diameter. As a fine container plant they can be grown indoors year round or withstand about plus 5F outdoors.

### SOIL

They like bagged potting mixes for houseplants that will drain well. Most garden centers carry various brand names with perlite, vermiculite, soil and sand.

### GARDEN PREPARATION

If your soil is clayish amend it with a standard garden soil for adequate drainage. In the garden they can withstand minus 5F.

### PLANTING SPACING

If planting into the garden space them 10-12 feet apart. If planting into a container allow for adequate air ventilation on deck or patio.

### PLANT HEIGHT AND WIDTH

These will grow to 6 to 8 feet in a 12 inch pot. In larger pots look out. In the garden they'll grow up to 40 feet tall.

### WATER

Only average watering is needed. Do not over water. Water them in well in the garden. Let top 3 to 4 inches of soil dry out before each watering. In pots, water the plants thoroughly letting the excess water drain through the bottom of the pot.

### FERTILIZER

To promote more flowers use a well balanced fertilizer like Roberta's Flower Magic Plant Food (M7503) monthly in summer.

### LIGHTING

Full sun is best outside in summer. Otherwise a half a day of sun is sufficient.

### ZONE 6 to 11

It can be grown indoors year round. If you live in Zone 7 or higher you can plant directly into garden. If you live in Zone 6, plant in pots for the first season and winter over inside. The following spring you can transplant into the ground. In Zones 5 or lower they will not winter over.

### PRUNING

You should never prune the main stem unless the cold weather gets them. If you cut the main stem you will get new growth from the center and sides. Grooming should occur all year round when fronds get brown – and they will as new ones grow in bigger numbers. Just cut them away. It is that easy.

### WINTERIZING

In the garden, there is absolutely nothing to do. In pots bring inside if your temperatures drop below plus 5F.

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCE



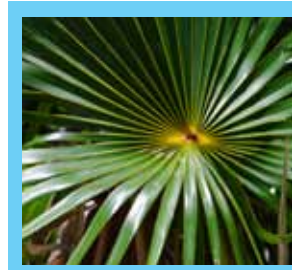
Windmill Palm  
Shipped  
As Shown



Established  
1 Year Old  
Windmill Palm



Mature  
5 Year Old  
Windmill Palm



Close-up of  
Windmill Palm Leaf