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Chinese Windmill Palm

This native of south-eastern China, Taiwan, and the Chusan islands, is grown from central Florida to Vancouver, British Columbia. It is often covered in snow in its native range.

Cold hardy windmill palm trees will survive temperatures as low as 5 degrees F. and can be safely planted outdoors in zones 7b-10.

For best results plant the Chusan palm tree in well-draining, nutritious soil in part shade. It has some salt tolerance but should be shielded from direct salt spray.

A planting site in full sun can be used if more water is supplied.

This palm is especially stunning when planted in multiples.

GROWING WINDMILL PALMS:

The growth of windmill palms will be rapid if regular water is supplied. *Trachycarpus fortunei* is very drought tolerant but growth will nearly cease under dry conditions.

Chinese windmill palms may grow 2 feet per year with proper care. They do not care for tropical heat and so are best used in temperate or subtropical climates.

Protect the tree from strong winds as these will shred the fronds.

Pruning windmill palms is easy. Just remove dead fronds close to the trunk. Do not cut or in any way injure the trunk.

These palms perform well when given monthly feedings of any complete palm fertilizer. Add extra nitrogen by using fish emulsion every two weeks during warm weather.

Top dress the soil around the tree with composted manure every spring.

This palm variety is not as picky as most about the type of food it gets. It doesn't have as much need for all the micro nutrients as some other palm tree types.

WINDMILL PALM SEED PROPAGATION:

Ripe windmill palm seed germination will occur within 2 months. No special handling is required.

Sow seed indoors before the last winter frost.

WINDMILL PALM WINTER CARE:

Mulch 1 year old windmill palms and cover them with a sheet or blanket on frosty nights to protect the growing tip. Some growers wrap the trunk in fiberglass insulation and then top that with bubble wrap.

Water potted palms very sparingly in the winter. If the tree is outdoors in the ground, you may need to protect it from excess water with a plastic mulch.

Snow cover will not damage the tree unless the weather warms enough to melt the snow and soak the soil. The windmill palm tree will not accept soggy soil.

The tree's first winter in the ground is the most critical. If you can get it through the first winter, subsequent freezes probably won't harm it as it will develop greater cold resistance as it ages.

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