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Phoenix Reclinata – Wild Date Palm

This palm could be used as a specimen tree in a large garden with sweeping lawns. It may also form part of a dense wildlife garden planting. When fruiting, it will attract birds and other animals if they are in the vicinity. In smaller gardens ensure that the plant is given sufficient space to spread. When young it could be used as a container plant. As mentioned before, the wild date will tolerate light frost and waterlogged conditions. In colder areas the young plants will need protection from frost for the first few seasons.

For propagation by seed, mature fruit should be selected and all the pulp removed. Sow in a mix of river sand and compost. The seeds can either be pressed gently into the medium or covered lightly. Do not allow the medium to dry out. Germination should begin after about a month. Transplanting can be carried out when the first leaf is 50 mm long. Young plants grow quite slowly and will need slow release fertilizer in the growth medium. For vegetative propagation, suckers from an adult plant can also be removed and planted.

The wild date is best planted in full sun but does grow in light shade. The growth rate is variable, depending on a good water supply which will also probably affect the ultimate size and shape of the palm.

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