PLANT FINDER

Black Knight Grass Palm

Cordyline australis 'Black Knight'

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Cabbage Palm, Grass Tree, Dracaena Palm

Description:

A palm-like shrub or small tree with interesting foliage that emerges deep burgundy and matures to purplish-black; will eventually branch out, and produce panicles of sweet smelling white blooms; a wonderful addition to a tropical themed garden

Planting & Growing

This plant is native to the tropics and prefers growing in moist environments with evenly warm conditions all year round. In our climate, it is usually grown as an outdoor annual in the garden or in a container. If you want it to survive the winter, it can be brought in to the house and provided with special care, and then returned to the garden the following season. In its preferred tropical habitat, it can grow to be around 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. However, when grown as an annual or when overwintered indoors, it can be expected to perform differently, and its exact height and spread will depend on many factors; you may wish to consult with our experts as to how it might perform in your specific application and growing conditions.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.



Black Knight Grass Palm foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Black Knight Grass Palm
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Black Knight Grass Palm is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, this plant may be too tender to survive the winter if left outdoors in a container. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.

-- THIS IS A TROPICAL PLANT AND SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO SURVIVE THE WINTER OUTDOORS IN OUR CLIMATE --