



**Pacaya Palm**  
*Chamaedorea tepejilote*

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ●

Hardiness Zone: 9b

Other Names: Tepejilote Palm, Palmito Dulce

**Description:**

A usually single trunked palm, but includes a rarer clustering variety; tall, thick, dark green stems rise up, with ringed leaf scars that produce a bamboo-like appearance; fast growing, with long, feathery, glossy green leaves; avoid any direct sun

**Planting & Growing**

Pacaya Palm will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It has a high canopy with a typical clearance of 6 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 15 years. This is a dioecious species, meaning that individual plants are either male or female. Only the females will produce fruit, and a male variety of the same species is required nearby as a pollinator.

This tropical plant should only be grown in a shady location. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America..

Pacaya Palm is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants 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 grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also 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, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.



*Pacaya Palm*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder