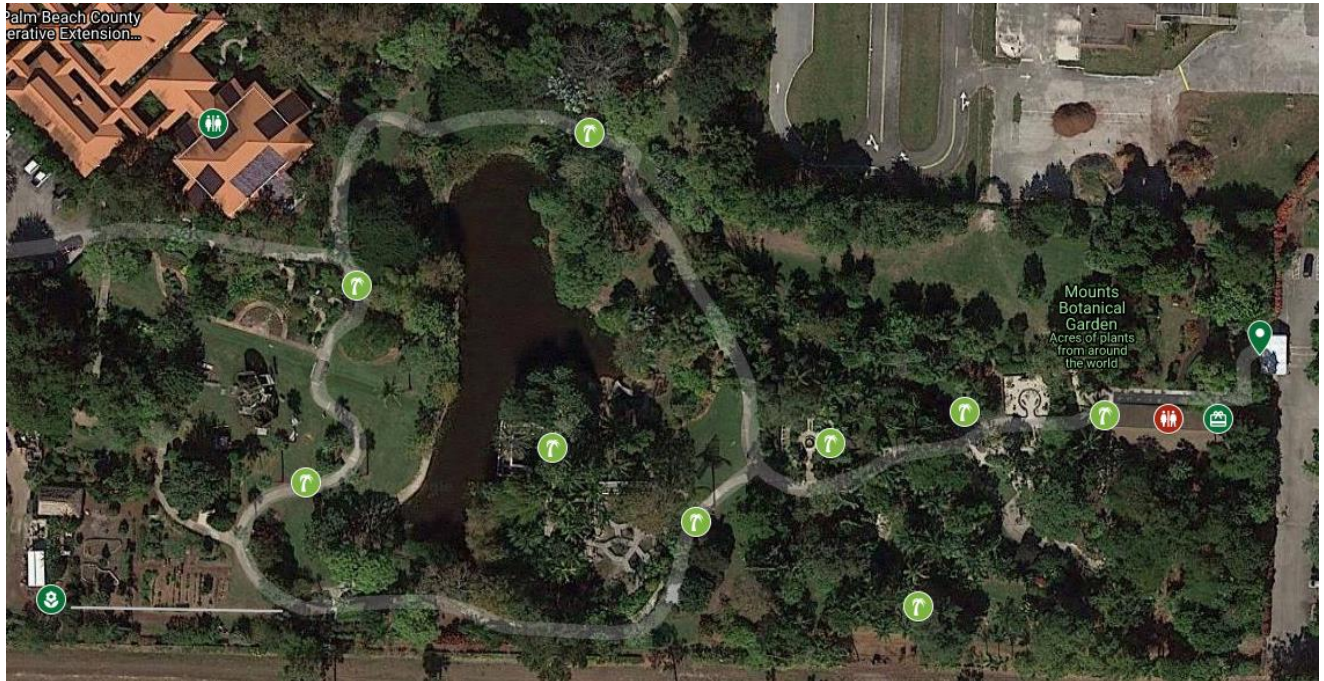


Palms of the Garden Self-Guided Tour

For the interactive map version of this tour, www.mounts.org/tours

The Palms of the Garden self-guided walking tour focuses on the living collection of Mounts Botanical Garden. Learn about the unique features that differentiate palm species, discover a new appreciate for the palms you see daily, and explore the Garden with a focus on the palms in the landscape.



What is a palm? Palms are plants that are classified in the palmae, or arecaceae family. There are over 4,000 palm species, most of which are tropical or sub-tropical. Although we commonly refer to palms as trees, they more closely resemble grass. Palms are monocots, which refers to the internal structure and tissues of the plant.

What makes up a palm? Since the stem mimics the appearance of a hardwood tree, it is also referred to as a trunk. The stem of a palm elongates as the tree loses the bottom leaves, or fronds, of its canopy and new ones emerge at the top. The flowers, or inflorescence, of a palm are typically small and usually green or white.

The Florida Connection There are 12 palm species that are native to Florida including our state tree, the sabal palm (*Sabal palmetto*).

Stop 1: Pavilion

The palms in this garden are located near the end of the screened-in pavilion, where a set of double doors open up to a path.

Teddy Bear Palm

Dypsis leptocheilos

Flanking the double doors of the pavilion is a pair of teddy bear palms originally planted in 2009. This medium palm species is known for its unique trunk. The slim trunk leads to a dense reddish-brown velvet like material on the crownshaft. This fuzzy material, also known as tomentum, gives the tree its common name.



Spindle Palm

Hyophorbe verschaffeltii

The spindle palm receives its name from the shape of its stem. Endemic to the Mascarene Islands in the Indian Ocean, this palm grows well in well-drained sandy soils allowing it to be grown in south Florida, southern California and the Hawaiian Islands. The spindle palm is a slow growing tree, reaching heights of 20 to 25 feet in full sunlight.



Stop 2: Eigelberger Tropical Foliage Border

The palms in this garden can be found exploring the grass path of this display garden. Most can be found near or just beyond the sculpture, Educating Sarah.

Pygmy Date Palm

Phoenix roebelenii

The pygmy date palm is one of the most popular small landscape palms in Florida. It is single-stemmed, but is often grown in clumps of closely spaced individuals which, when older, give the impression of a multi-stemmed palm.



Carnarvon Gorge Cycad

Macrozamia moorei

The Carnarvon Gorge cycad helps to bring a 'Jurassic Park' vibe to this display garden. Cycads are a modern plant from prehistoric times. These seed plants are typically characterized by a stout and woody trunk with a crown of large leaves. Typically slow to grow, cycads have an incredibly long lifetime. These cycads are one of the icons of the Carnarvon Gorge in Central Queensland, Australia where they get their name.



Bottle Palm

Hyophorbe lagenicaulis

Similar to the spindle palm, the bottle palm gets its name from its distinctive shape and is also endemic to the Mascarene Islands. The species name is a combination of two Greek words: lagen meaning a flask and caulis meaning a stem, referring to the bottle shaped trunk. The bottle palm can reach heights from 12 to 20 feet, with fronds that can grow to 12 feet long.



Old Man Palm

Coccothrinax crinita

This Cuba-native is well known for its stiff, beige-colored hairs densely borne along the entire length of the single, thick trunk, reaching a height of 15 feet. The textured fiber creates the signature look for this palm, reminiscent of an old man's scraggly beard.



Triangle Palm

Dypsis decaryi

The fronds of this Madagascar native grow in three distinct rows, creating a triangle shape as the petioles stack on top of each other. Its species name, *decaryi*, is derived from Raymond Decary who was the first person to collect the palm. The triangle palm thrives in poor, dry soil and can grow in the range of 25 to 35 ft. The leaflets are blueish-green and the trunk is typically a dark gray.



Cuban Petticoat Palm

Copernicia macroglossa

This small palm gets its name from the distinctive look created by dead leaves. The fan shaped fronds droop and naturally begin to stack up as they die, creating a brown skirt underneath the live fronds.



Stop 3: Herb Garden of Well Being

The palms in this garden are found just outside of the border of the formal area of the Herb Garden as well as in the raised bed section labeled 'Herbs Used in Ceremonies'

Betelnut Palm

Areca catechu

This tropical Pacific palm produces the areca nut, which although referred to as a nut is really a seed of a fruit. Commonly wrapped with betel, a leafy vine, the areca seed is commonly chewed in many cultures. As with chewing tobacco, its use is discouraged due to negative health effects.



Zombi Palm

Zombia antillarum

This short, clustered palm is not just distinctive but threatening! The thatched leaf stems are lined with long, vicious spines said to be used as voodoo doll needles. Although implied by the name, this palm has no known connection to zombies...yet.



Stop 4: Signature Ridge

The palms in this garden are located at the east end of the ridge.

Silver Bismarck Palm

Bismarckia nobilis 'Silver'

The pair of silver bismarck palms claim their place on Signature Ridge with reason. The silver bismarck palm is a large and dominating species, growing to heights of 30 feet or more. The genetics of the plant cause the silvery color to vary between individuals, from steel-gray to blue-gray to silver-white.



High Plateau Coconut Palm

Beccariophoenix alfredii

This Madagascar native is found in its native environment along sandy riverbeds surrounded by various grasses, similar to its location near Lake Orth. *B. alfredii* is a great substitute for the look of a coconut palm in cooler climates.



Stop 5: Butterfly Garden

The palms in this garden can be spotted alongside the main concrete path opposite the Butterfly Garden.

Royal Palm

Roystonea regia

The royal palm is a large, majestic palm native to south Florida and Cuba (sometimes referred to as the Cuban Royal Palm). Its height and smooth trunk make it a showstopper for lining streets. A royal palm is considered self-cleaning; the dry, older leaves will drop cleanly off the tree but watch out! The sheer size of the leaves, 10-15 feet long and up to 50 lbs., can cause injury and property damage.



Seashore Palm

Allagoptera arenaria

The seashore palm is native to the sandy shores of South America, growing just above the high tide mark. The short, lush palm rarely grows beyond 6 feet in height.



Stop 6: Great Lawn

This palms in this garden are located on the side of the Great Lawn that is nearest to the Children's Maze.

Sabal or Cabbage Palm

Sabal palmetto

This palm has Florida icon status. The state tree of Florida, the sabal palm is one of 15 species of palmetto palm. A remarkably resilient tree, its ability to bend in high winds and tolerate coastal conditions makes it great for the Florida hurricane season. Also known as a cabbage palm, the heart of the new fronds can be consumed. Heart of palm as found on menus and at grocery stores is however harvested from other palm species, as the removal of the sabal palm cabbage kills the tree.



Everglades or Paurotis Palm

Accoelrraphe wrightii

The Everglades palm is a clustering palm with very slender stems. It is native to moist environments, making it particularly friendly to the South Florida climate. This clump is particularly happy located on the edge of Lake Orth.



Stop 7: Windows on the Floating World

The palms in this garden are located along the main pathway, near where the limestone staircase leads down to the garden.

Christmas Palm

Adonidia merrillii

The Christmas palm's common name comes from the clusters of bright red fruits that adorn the species in late fall and winter, giving the trees the appearance of being decorated for the holidays. This single-trunked palm is frequently planted in small groups, which causes the tree to grow outwards in a graceful curve. Single Christmas palms are suitable for a small planting area.



Left: Christmas Palm; Right: Clustering Fishtail Palm

Clustering Fishtail Palm

Caryota mitis

The clustering fishtail palm forms clumps with multiple trunks. Its ability to tolerate heavy shade and its smaller size lends the species to being commonly used as a hedging border, outdoor containers, and even interior planting in commercial buildings.

Stop 8: Zimmerman Color and Shade Island

The palm in this garden can be found in the center of the Island's circular path near the overlook.

Egyptian Date Palm

Phoenix dactylifera

Often seen in resorts and other large-scale landscapes, date palms can grow to be incredibly large and make a major statement. The date palm dwarfs visitors on the path that circles the tree and makes for a distinctive landscape when viewed from across Lake Orth.



Stop 9: Light Tropical Shade

The palms in this garden are located at the rear of this display garden, near the fence line. A white sand path across from the Herb Garden will lead to a glass clearing and the palms can be found to your right as you enter the grassy area.

Montgomery Palm

Veitchia arecina (montgomeryana)

The montgomery palm is native to Vanuatu in the South Pacific. This slim, fast-growing palm maxes out at around 30 feet.



Aneityum Palm

Carpoxylon macrospermum

Don't let the current size of this palm fool you! The aneityum palm will eventually grow to over 40 feet tall. Another native of Vanuatu, this palm is considered "Critical Endangered" with only approximately 40 trees left in the wild.



Gru-Gru Palm

Acrocomia aculeata

From a distance, the trunk of the gru-gru palm seems textured with fiber. Upon approach, the fiber will reveal itself to be thousands of slender, black spines sticking out from the trunk.



We hope you enjoyed learning more about some of the fascinating palms that make their home here at Mounts Botanical Garden!