

Caryota obtusa

Botany Name: *Caryota obtusa*

Common Name: Giant Black Fishtail Palm

Morphological Characters

Habit: solitary with a crown of 4-6 very wide bipinnate leaves, Height: 30'-40' (plants nearer the coast tend to grow taller than those inland), Trunk: single; 25"-30" thick; ringed; clean; top covered with black fiber (below and among leaf crown); extremely hard wood (too hard to carve even with a chain saw), Crownshaft: none, Spread: 20'-30', Leaf Description: bipinnate (branching to two orders); flat; 25'-20' long and 10' wide; leaflets and secondary branches mildly pendant; leaflets are wide, fishtail shape and tend to spread out touching the leaflets on the adjacent branchlet; medium green, Petiole/Leaf bases: 1'; unarmed; often covered with some black fiber; un-split, Reproduction: monoecious, Inflorescence: below the leaves; 10'-15' long; pendant with very thick, deep green peduncle and many short side branches; white flowers, Fruit: light green turning to reddish when ripe; full of very irritating and toxic oxalates.



Growing season and Type

- 1) A well grown tree is hard to beat as specimen palm. Palms grown in crowded gardens or in groups of several diminishes the amazing leaf spread of each individual plant.
- 2) Most trees flower after 10-15 years, and few make it over 20'-30' of trunk before starting to flower. These trees have exceptionally hard wood trunks making their removal a huge chore. Still, they are amazing beautiful palms.



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1) Fruit of *Caryota obtusa*

2) Leaf of *Caryota obtusa*

3) Tree of *Caryota obtusa*

Source: www.palmpedia.net/palmsforca