

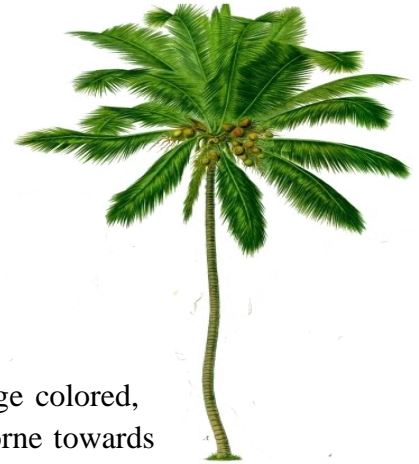
Cocos nucifera

Botanical Name: *Cocos nucifera*

Common Name: Coconut tree

Morphological characters:

Palm to 27 m or more tall, bearing crown of large pinnate leaves; trunk stout, 30-45 cm in diameter, straight or slightly curved, rising from a swollen base surrounded by mass of roots; rarely branched, marked with rings of leaf scars; leaves 2-6 m long, pinnatisect, leaflets 0.6-1 m long, narrow, tapering; inflorescence in axil of each leaf as spathe enclosing a spadix 1.3-2 m long, stout, straw or orange colored, simply branched; female flowers numerous, small, sweet-scented, borne towards top of panicle; fruit ovoid, 3-angled, 15-30 cm long, containing single seed; exocarp a thick fibrous, husk, enclosing a hard, bony endocarp or shell. Adhering inside wall of endocarp is testa with thick albuminous endosperm, the coconut meat; embryo below one of the three pores at end of fruit, cavity of endosperm filled in unripe fruit with watery fluid, the coconut water, and only partially filled when ripe.



Growing season and type:

1. The coconut palm thrives on sandy, saline soils; it requires abundant sun light and regular rainfalls over the year.
2. Inside it contains one seed, rich in reserve substances located in the endosperm which is partly liquid (coconut milk), partly solid (flesh).
3. *Cocos nucifera* is among the “world’s most useful plant”, used both for its ornamental value and for its fruit and wood.
4. Coconut palm thrives in areas of full sun and in a fertile, well-drained soil. The tree is propagated by seed, which is the fruit and which takes a long time to germinate.



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1. Flower and Fruit of *Cocos nucifera*
2. Leaf of *Cocos nucifera*
3. *Cocos nucifera* tree



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