Cat Palm

Chamaedorea cataractarum

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 10b

Description:

A popular, bushy palm that is low maintenance; graceful fronds arch out from central stems, creating an elegant patio or garden setting; great for medium light areas; do not overwater; protect from frost, move indoors to overwinter

Ornamental Features

Cat Palm has attractive dark green evergreen foliage on a plant with an arching habit of growth. The narrow pinnately compound leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Cat Palm is an open multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a shapely form and gracefully arching branches. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Cat Palm is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Cat Palm
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Cat Palm
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Cat Palm will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years.

This shrub does best in partial shade to full shade. Keep it well away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Cat Palm makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use 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.



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Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder