Lee County Extension Office Palm Garden

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African Oil Palm, Elaeis guineensis
Light: full sun
Height: 35 feet
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: pinnate, green
Flower color: cream Fruit color: red and black
What’s special: a very robust palm, needs lots of room to grow, a great source of palm oil

Bottle Palm, Hyophorbe lagenicaulis
Light: full to part sun
Height: 12 feet
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: pinnate, green to gray-green
Flower color: cream Fruit color: flack
What’s special: the round shape of the trunk and the beautifully arching canopy make this a great specimen plant

Alexander Palm, Pyschosperma elegans
Light: full sun
Height: 20 feet
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: pinnate, green
Flower color: white Fruit color: red
What’s special: slender trunk, spectacular fruit, good for small residential areas

Buccaneer Palm, Pseudophoenix sargentii
Light: full to part sun
Height: 10 feet
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: pinnate, blue-green
Flower color: yellow Fruit color: red
What’s special: a native of south Florida, not very cold-tolerant, but very drought-tolerant

Arikury Palm, Syagrus schizophylla
Light: shade preferred, some sun is fine
Height: 15 feet
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: pinnate, green
Flower color: white Fruit Color: orange
What’s special: interesting leaf stem base pattern on trunk

Cabada Palm, Dypsis cabadae
Light: Full sun
Height: 30 feet
Growth habit: clustering
Leaf: pinnate, green
Flower color: yellow Fruit color: red
What’s special: beautiful smooth ringed green trunks

Bismarck Palm, Bismarkia nobilis
Light: full sun
Height: 30-60 feet
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: palmate, blue-green
Flower color: brown Fruit color: brown
What’s special: massive and robust, this palm is very impressive but too large for small residential areas

Canary Island Date Palm, Phoenix canariensis
Light: full sun
Height: 40 feet
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: pinnate, green
Flower color: yellow Fruit color: orange
What’s special: this massive palm is highly prized for the distinctive diamond leaf scar pattern on the trunk below the fronds, shaped like a pineapple

Blue Latan Palm, Latania loddigesii
Light: full sun
Height: 30 feet
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: palmate, blue-green
Flower color: brownish-yellow Fruit color: brownish-green
What’s special: resembles the Bismarck palm, but not as robust, and trunk flares out at the bottom, fronds have a waxy, almost woolly, underside

Carnauba Wax Palm, Copernicia prunifera
Light: full sun
Height: 30 feet
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: palmate, blue-green, very waxy
Flower: brown Fruit: brown
What’s special: known for the copious amount of heat resistant wax found on its leaves
Cliff Date Palm, *Phoenix rupicola*
Light: full sun
Height: 25 feet
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: pinnate, green
Flower color: white  Fruit color: yellow, then brown
What’s special: smaller in stature than most date palms with softer leaves

Cuban Petticoat Palm, *Copernicia macroglossa*
Light: full sun
Height: 15 feet, after a long time
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: palmate, light green, waxy
Flower: brown  Fruit: green
What’s special: very broad leaves, which droop and cling when mature

European Fan Palm, *Chamaerops humilis*
Light: full sun, can tolerate some shade
Height: 10 feet
Growth habit: clustering
Leaf: palmate, green
Flower color: yellow  Fruit color: yellow, orange or brown
What’s special: the slow growth of this lovely small palm allows it to be grown in a container for years

Florida Thatch Palm, *Thrinax radiata*
Light: partial to full sun
Height: 20 feet
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: palmate, deep green with yellow ribs; yellowish-green below
Flower color: white  Fruit color: white
What’s special: slow-growing small palm, good for seaside or small gardens, native palm

Gingerbread or Doum Palm, *Hyphaene thebaica*
Light: full sun
Height: 30-60 feet
Growth habit: solitary; may branch when mature
Leaf: palmate, deep green to silvery green
Flower color: brown or yellow  Fruit color: brown
What’s special: very hardy, unusual due to branching

Hat Palm, *Sabal causiarum*
Light: full sun
Height: 50 feet
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: palmate, green
Flower color: white  Fruit color: dark brown to black
What’s special: this robust palm has a very wide base and requires a lot of room to spread out

Hurricane or Princess Palm, *Dictyosperma album*
Light: full sun
Height: 30 feet
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: pinnate, green
Flower: creamy yellow  Fruit: purple-black
What’s special: Although this palm can resist hurricane force winds, it is susceptible to drying winds. Fronds have a graceful twisting appearance.

Joannis Palm, *Veitchia joannis*
Light: partial to full sun
Height: 60 feet
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: pinnate, dark green
Flower color: greenish white  Fruit color: red
What’s special: the red fruits, which are borne for a long time, are very ornamental

Keys Thatch Palm, *Thrinax morrissii*
Light: partial to full sun
Height: 20 feet
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: palmate, green above, silver below
Flower color: white  Fruit color: white
What’s special: a Florida native, this small palm tolerates seaside conditions very well.

Licuala Palm, *Licuala grandis*
Light: partial shade to shade
Height: 8 feet
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: palmate, densely pleated along the ribs, shiny green
Flower color: white  Fruit color: red
What’s special: the elegant-looking, corrugated bright green leaves make this an especially attractive specimen for a shaded, protected area

Montgomery Palm, *Veitchia montgomeryana*
Light: partial to full sun
Height: 25-35 feet
Growth habit: solitary
Leaf: pinnate, dark green
Flower color: white  Fruit color: red
What’s special: a fast-growing palm that looks good in a residential garden

Needle Palm, *Rhapidophyllum hystrix*
Light: partial to full sun
Height: 5 feet
Growth habit: clustering
Leaf: palmate, dark green above, silvery below
Flowers: yellow, purple  Fruit: purple-brown, wooly
What’s special: native to the southeastern U.S.; produces needle-like fibers from decayed leaf bases
**Pindo Palm, Butia capitata**
Light: partial to full sun  
Height: 15 feet  
Growth habit: solitary  
Leaf: pinnate, blue-green  
Flowers: greenish-white  
Fruit: red  
What's special: distinctive for its glue-green stiffly arching leaves, very cold tolerant; may grow as far north as the Carolinas, the fruit may be used for jelly

**Queen Palm, Syagrus romanzoffiana**
Light: partial to full sun  
Height: 40 feet  
Growth habit: solitary  
Leaf: pinnate, dark green  
Flower: white  
Fruit: yellow to orange  
What's special: the drooping leaves give it a graceful appearance; it produces large quantities of fruit, which may become messy

**Red Feather Palm, Chambeyronia macrocarpa**
Light: shade to partial shade  
Height: 60 feet  
Growth habit: solitary  
Leaf: pinnate, green  
Flower: cream or pink  
Fruit: deep red  
What's special: the new leaf starts out as bright red, then fades to green

**Sabal or Cabbage Palm, Sabal palmetto**
Light: full sun  
Height: 40 feet  
Growth habit: solitary  
Leaf: palmate, dull green  
Flower: white  
Fruit: black  
What's special: it's the Florida State Tree, native to the Southeastern U.S., may or may not have "boots" on the trunk, flowers are very fragrant

**Seashore Palm, Allagoptera arenaria**
Light: full sun  
Height: 4-8 feet  
Growth habit: clustering (with time)  
Leaf: pinnate, leaflets in radiating groups  
Flower: greenish-yellow  
Fruit: yellowish-green  
What's special: highly salt tolerant; graceful bushy plume-like leaves

**Silver Palm, Cocothrinax barbadensis**
Light: full sun  
Height: 25 feet  
Growth habit: solitary  
Leaf: palmate, green above, silvery below  
Flower: white  
Fruit: brown or black  
What's special: drought-tolerant, slow-growing

**Spindle Palm, Hyophorbe verschaffeltii**
Light: full sun  
Height: 20 feet  
Growth habit: solitary  
Leaf: pinnate, deep green, arching  
Flower: cream  
Fruit: orange to red  
What's special: bottle-shaped trunk, but does not widen at the base like the bottle palm; very smooth crownshaft

**Teddy Bear Palm, Dypsis leptochelios**
Light: full sun  
Height: 30 feet  
Growth habit: solitary  
Leaf: pinnate, bright green  
Flower: white  
Fruit: yellowish-orange  
What's special: the crownshaft area is covered with rust colored hair that resembles fur

**Toddy or Wild Date Palm, Phoenix sylvestris**
Light: full sun  
Height: 40 feet  
Growth habit: solitary  
Leaf: pinnate, blue-green  
Flower: white  
Fruit: orange-yellow, ripening to reddish purple  
What's special: a massive palm that needs sufficient space to grow, the fronds have sharp spines, the trunk may display diamond shaped leaf scars

**Triangle Palm, Dypsis decaryi**
Light: partial to full sun  
Height: 25 feet  
Growth habit: solitary  
Leaf: pinnate, blue-green  
Flower: yellow  
Fruit: light green  
What's special: very unusual appearance, with its leaves set in a three planed arrangement, long "reins" hanging down from the leaves; its bold formal look shows best in a special location

**White Elephant Palm, Kerriodoxa elegans**
Light: shade to partial shade  
Height: 15 feet  
Growth habit: solitary  
Leaf: palmate, dark green above, white below  
Flower: creamy yellow  
Fruit: orange-yellow  
What's special: beautiful broad leaves, can be grown underneath other plants or in a container