

# 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

## **Alexander Palm, *Ptychosperma 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

## **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

## **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

## **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

## **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

## **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

## **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

## **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

## **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 morrisii***

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, *Coccothrinax 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 leptocheilos***

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