

Caryota urens

Common name: Fishtail Palm, Toddy Palm, Wine Palm

Family: Arecaceae

Habit: Tree

Location: Botanical Garden

Distribution: *Caryota urens* is a species of flowering plant in the palm family, native to Sri Lanka, India, Myanmar and Malaysia (perhaps elsewhere in Indo-Malayan region), where they grow in fields and rainforest clearings, it is regarded as introduced in Cambodia.

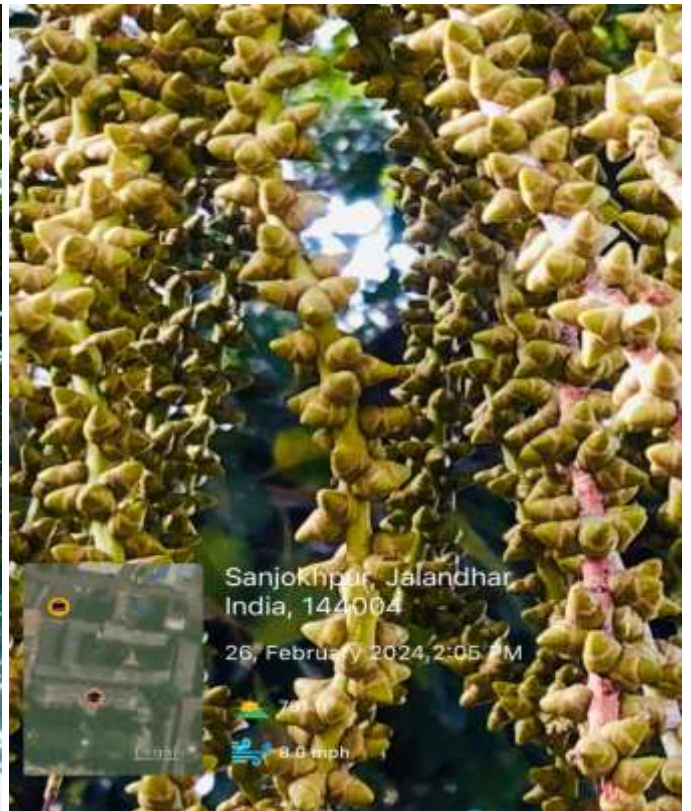
Description:

Caryota urens species is a solitary-trunked tree that can measure 59 feet in height and up to 30 cm wide. Widely spaced leaf-scar rings cover its gray trunk which culminate in a 6 m (20 ft) wide, 6 m tall leaf crown. The bipinnate leaves are triangular in shape, bright to deep green, 3.5 m long, and held on 60 cm long petioles. The obdeltoid pinnae are 30 cm long with a pointed edge and a jagged edge. The 3 m long inflorescences emerge at each leaf node, from top to bottom, producing pendent clusters of white, unisexual flowers. The fruit matures to a round, 1 cm drupe, red in color with one seed. Like all Caryotas, the fruit contains oxalic acid, a skin and membrane irritant. As these plants are monocarpic, the completion of the flower and fruiting process results in the death of the tree.

Uses:

It is cultivated as an ornamental tree. Its leaf is used as fishing rod after trimming the branches of the leaf and drying. The trunk contains a high quantity of starch and a juice can be extracted from the shoots of the flowers. The latter can be boiled into a sugary syrup. Toddy (Palm wine) is extracted from the inflorescence, and is considered somewhat powerful compared to toddy extracted from other palm trees. The pulp of the mature plant is cut, sun dried, and powdered, and is edible. The leaves possess strong fibres and are used for basketry.





IMAGES SHOWING RED DRUPES (FRUIT) AND INFLORESCENCE