East Bay Nursery

Kentia Palm

Howea forsteriana

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9a

Other Names: Thatch Palm, Paradise Palm, Sentry Palm

Description:

An elegant palm that is relatively slow-growing with a slender trunk and graceful, arching, dark green fronds; a solitary trunk variety that can be grouped together for effect; very impressive as a landscape accent in warmer climates

Planting & Growing

Kentia Palm will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a high canopy of foliage that sits well above the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This tropical plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.



Kentia Palm
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Kentia Palm fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Kentia Palm is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting 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.



Kentia Palm
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder