

How to Identify the 3 Most Popular Palm Trees in Our Area

Each of the three palms have distinctive fronds and they are the easiest way to tell them apart.

The trunks can vary in appearance depending on how they are trimmed.

Date Palm

Phoenix dactylifera, commonly known as date or date palm, is a flowering plant species in the palm family, *Arecaceae*, cultivated for its edible sweet fruit.

Date trees typically reach about 69–75 ft in height, growing singly or forming a clump with several stems from a single root system. The leaves are 13–20 feet long, with spines on the petiole (stalk that attaches the leaf blade to the stem), and pinnate (the arrangement of leaves arising from both sides of a common axis), with about 150 leaflets. The leaflets are 12 inches long and 0.79 inch wide. The full span of the crown ranges from 20–33 feet.



Date Palm Frond



Washingtonia Palm

Washingtonia filifera, also known as Desert Fan palm, California fan palm or California palm, is a flowering plant in the palm family (*Arecaceae*), and native to the far southwestern United States and Baja California. Other common names include California fan palm, Desert Fan Palm, American Cotton Palm, Arizona Fan Palm and Petticoat Palm. The specific epithet *filifera* means “thread-bearing”.

Washingtonia is the only palm native to the Western United States and the country's largest native palm.

Washingtonia filifera grows to 59 feet in height, occasionally to 82 feet in ideal conditions. The fronds are up to 11–13 feet long, made up of a petiole (the stalk that attaches the leaf blade to the stem) up to 6.6 feet long, bearing a fan of leaflets 4.9–6.6 feet long. They have long thread-like white fibers and the petioles are pure green with yellow edges and between the segments. The trunk is gray and tan and the leaves are gray green. When the fronds die they remain attached and drop down to cloak the trunk in a wide skirt. *Washingtonia filifera* can live from 80 to 250 years or more.



Washingtonia Palm Frond

Queen Palm

Syagrus romanzoffiana, the Queen Palm or Cocos Palm, is a palm native to South America. It's a medium-sized palm, quickly reaching maturity at a height of up to 49 feet tall, with pinnate leaves having as many as 494 leaflets, although more typically around 300, each leaflet being around 18 inches in length and 1-2 inches in width.

The Queen Palm's fronds die early and must be pruned to keep the tree visually pleasing. The fruits consist of a hard nut surrounded with a thin layer of fibrous flesh that is orange and sticky when ripe. The flavor is sweet and could be described as a mixture of plum and banana.



Queen Palm Frond

