

Foxtail Palms

(*Wodyetia bifurcata*)

Landscape Maintenance Plant Care

Foxtail palms have become a popular landscape plant due to their aesthetic qualities and relatively fast growth. With proper care and maintenance, they can be a great addition to the landscape.

Description: Foxtail palms can tolerate shady conditions, but grow best in full sun. On average, they grow to about 30 feet tall. Foxtail palms can survive temperatures down to 30 °F, which makes them suitable for most areas of Brevard County.

Soils: Foxtails prefer a well-drained, slightly acidic soil. Watch for nutrient deficiencies in high pH soils, which are common in Brevard County.

Fertilizer: Nutrients must be managed carefully to prevent nutritional deficiencies. Once deficiencies occur, it may take several years to correct them.

Common Nutrient Deficiencies: the most common deficiencies observed on foxtail palms is potassium (K). To correct a K deficiency, broadcast a soil application of potassium sulfate at three to eight pounds per palm four times per year. Also, apply one-third as much controlled release magnesium sulfate to prevent a K-Mg imbalance.

Watering: Established palms require no additional irrigation especially if they are located in a lawn where turfgrass is being irrigated. On average, a St. Augustinegrass lawn should be irrigated one to two times per week (depending on rainfall and season) with 1/2" to 3/4" of water per application. Overwatering a foxtail palm can lead to trunk splitting, nutritional deficiencies, and/or fungal diseases.

Pruning: Never remove green fronds from a palm. Palms store their excess nutrients in the lower fronds, so removing those fronds essentially starves the palm and leads to nutrient deficiencies.

Pests: Foxtail palms suffer from few pest problems when fertilized, watered, and pruned correctly. Leaf spots can sometimes be a problem especially

Additional Resources:

Potassium Deficiency in Palms: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep269>

Fertilizing Palms: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep261>

Pruning Palms: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep443>

Other publications: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>



Fertilizer Instructions

When: every 3 months

Fertilizer ratio: 100% slow-release 8-2-12 +4%Mg with micronutrients

Quantity: 15 lbs. of fertilizer (not N) per 1000 sq. ft. of palm canopy.

Where: broadcast uniformly beneath the canopy or in the bed area.

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