



EXOTIC PLANTING HANDBOOK

This handbook aims to assist designers with plant choices for exotic style plantings. These are not a comprehensive list of plants but are a selection which is more reliably hardy and successful in cultivation and usually grown or stocked on the nursery. The exotic feel is often achieved with a mixture of foliage sizes and contrasts along with lush growth. This list will be an ongoing document as more plants are added. The latest updated version will be always be available to download from the Palmstead web site.

The cold winters experienced in the years 2011 - 2013 have reduced confidence in planting in the exotic style however we did enjoy 20 years of mild winters before that. So perhaps the loss of confidence is only temporary as many plants are reasonably hardy and can add a welcome dimension to planting schemes.

The sales team at Palmstead is on hand to assist with plant choices and to offer advice on availability / ordering. Our onsite Cash & Carry stocks a wide range of plants the vast majority are fully hardy and can contribute to the exotic or other planting palettes. For more information we would suggested the following books which offer further guidance on planting exotics:

- The New Exotic Garden - Will Giles
- Exotic planting for adventurous gardeners - Christopher Lloyd & friends
(For the secrets behind the “Dixter look”)
- Architectural Plants - Christine Shaw
- Tender Perennials - Ian Cooke
- Exotic Gardening in Cool Climates - Myles Challis
- Exotic Gardening - Stephen Lacey

AGAVACEAE Agave selection

- Origin: Arid areas of America/ Mexico
- Agaves are spiky succulent exotics, great for rockeries, on patios and in conservatories. Most commonly available varieties are *Agave americana* and *A. americana* Variegata – which can be available to large sizes 80+cm by 100cm + wide. These are amongst the most reliable too and will generate off sets if happy.
I've also been growing *Agave havardiana* in containers with good drainage and they have not suffered in the cold winters 2010-11,11-12,12-13

THE STEM

The Agaves are rosetted perennial succulents;

FOLIAGE

Agaves have succulent sword-shaped, sharp-toothed leaves;

- Colours vary from blue-grey, green, to variegated green/cream leaves.

NURSERY CARE

- It should be potted in a free draining mixture; Sharp spikes may need to be protected with corks. Tape up rosettes for transport and safer handling.
The Agave is semi-hardy, but needs protection from the combination of wet and cold;
Must have a sunny site, not below -5°C for any length of time;
- Allow soil to dry out between waterings;

ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS

- This plant can be placed outdoors or indoors in a sunny position. Also good in a container.
- Place in a free-draining site, and allow soil to dry out between waterings;
- Protect from combination of wet and cold – avoid temperatures below -5°C;

WINTER PROTECTION

- Protect from combination of wet and cold – avoid temperatures below -5°C. Wrap in fleece if very cold for any length of time. Drainage is key.

Acknowledgement: Thanks to Neil Pike for some initial information for this handbook.

BAMBOO SELECTION

- Origin: China and East Asia
- Palmstead's selection of bamboo is hardy to all conditions in the UK and requires minimum maintenance. All Bamboos don't like to dry out so need soils with moisture retentive ability + mulch well. Only a few spread with any vigour.
- The tallest and fattest yellow stems with a thin green stripe are gained from *Phyllostachys vivax Aureosulcata* (this can give 5-6m growth in a year and good evergreen and winter hardy foliage). But it has a passport and visas! So needs containing with our root barrier as can move 2m+ a year. However in heavier soils rhizomes are all within the top 30cm.
- *Phyllostachys bissetii* – green canes and good winter tolerant foliage. We use this as a replacement for *P. aurea* which scorches. *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* forms have good winter foliage too and yellow canes with a green stripe. Both are good clump formers.
- *Phyllostachys nigra* - develops black canes if canes in sunshine but foliage can be scorched by winter winds. Good clump former.
Other types: *Fargesia* types – good medium sized bamboos and with good clump forming behaviour. *Pseudosasa japonica* (benefits from containing); *Pleioblastus* - good smaller plants; *Sasa veitchii* attractive foliage but needs containing.

THE STEM

The bamboos are clump-forming evergreens with stems in colours of green, yellow and black.
Fast growing; new canes emerge in April/May

FOLIAGE

Foliage ranges from long slender leaves to shorter broad leaves in a mid green colour;
Will tolerate full sun to semi shade.

NURSERY CARE

Fertilise in early summer
Water twice a day in spring/summer and weekly in winter, and do not allow to dry out;

ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS

- This plant can be planted in the garden or kept in a pot; Outdoors allow space for spreading;
Ideal for hedging and screens makes a good vertical barrier, especially if contained, mulch + feed well.
- **Do not allow plant to dry out;**

WINTER PROTECTION

They are hardy to winter conditions.

<p>BRAHEA ARMATA Blue Hesper Palm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Origin: Southern California ● A beautiful desert palm with stunning pale blue foliage that shimmers in the moonlight. <p>THE TRUNK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Solitary, thick and grey; ● Stem has either persistent dead leaves, or is smooth and covered with old leaf scars. <p>FOLIAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stiff, palmate leaves covered in a pale blue bloom. The other blue palm is Bismarkia but this is not so hardy and is only for the mildest areas. May get to 3m tall. ● Looks its best in hot, bright and dry conditions. <p>NURSERY CARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It should be potted in a gritty free draining mixture with osmocote in a pot twice its size; ● It is a slow grower, especially in cooler areas, and has the advantage of being somewhat frost tolerant. It requires full sun, well drained soil, and an adequate supply of water; watch out for red spider mite if grown under dry glass. ● It is cold hardy to -10°C once established <p>ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This palm will grow outdoors in full sun, well drained soil and adequate water. ● It is also a wonderful plant for the glasshouse or conservatory, and requires high light intensities; ● Water 2-3 times a week in spring and summer and weekly in winter. <p>WINTER PROTECTION</p> <p>Protect from the combination of cold and wet for long periods.</p>	<p>CANNA Tropicana and other varieties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Origin: South Africa ● A very exotic looking canna with bright orange flowers and richly coloured striped leaves in a combination of burgundy, yellow and green. <p>THE STEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This is a clump-forming plant, which sends up new shoots from the rhizome; ● Fast growing and grows to a height of 1.2 to 2 metres (6.5'); <p>FOLIAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New foliage emerges in rich burgundy tones which quickly develop flamboyant stripes of red, pink, yellow and deep green fanning out from the vivid green central vein. ● Temperatures of 15°C and above encourage colour development. <p>NURSERY CARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It should be potted in a rich compost; Keep well watered; ● In late autumn cut foliage back to 10cm; ● Protect from snails and slugs. <p>ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This canna is very versatile and can be grown in the garden, in a pot on the patio, or indoors; ● In the garden, place in full sun or partial shade, indoors and on the patio, place in a sunny warm position; ● Ensure that it is kept moist; ● Protect from slugs and snails; ● In late autumn cut foliage back to 10cm and prepare for winter. <p>WINTER PROTECTION</p> <p>In mild winters - leave in ground or in pots for spring regrowth. Dig and divide if overcrowded. In cold winters – after cutting back foliage in late autumn dig clump out of garden and place in a box in a cool dark place covered lightly with damp sawdust or peat.. In mild areas a deep much 100+mm can allow in-situ overwintering.</p>
---	---

CHAMAEROPS HUMILIS

European Fan Palm

- Origin: Rugged Mediterranean mountainous regions
- A hardy adaptable palm that will grow in any soil conditions; they have been seen growing right on the coast from chalky outcrops.

THE TRUNK

- This palm is a clumping palm with more than one trunk growing into a bush in cooler climates;
- It is a very slow growing trunk and the clumps grow in thickness rather than height; the trunk has thorns.
- In warmer climates the trunk does grow up to 2m.

FOLIAGE

- In cooler regions the stiff fan shaped leaves change to a grey green colour with a silver underside;
- Wind or salt does not damage its foliage;
- The branches are lined with sharp thorns (good burglar deterrent).

NURSERY CARE

- This palm can be placed indoors or outdoors
- When outdoors it does not need any protection as it is hardy to full sun, wind and cold to -10°C;
- Water twice a week in spring/summer and monthly in winter;
- It must be potted in a free draining mixture, with short and long-term fertilisers.

ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS

- This palm is very adaptable to any conditions indoors or outdoors;
- A semi-shade position produces greener leaves;
- Makes an ideal centrepiece in any garden.

WINTER PROTECTION

- If outdoors for extended periods of extreme cold and heavy rainfall, wrap in fleece or plastic.

CORDYLINE AUSTRALIS

Cabbage Palm

- Origin: New Zealand
- This is not a true palm but it has survived for many years in the UK. A very hardy plant that is suitable for outdoors in the UK.
- The cold winters of 2010-11 and subsequent years saw many established plants succumb when exposed to -10°C or colder for several days. However plants did re-grow from the base.
- Dracaena is a similar plant but less hardy and more suited to the conservatory.

THE TRUNK

- Is fast growing, tall and slender;
- Can form several bushy heads which will carry large blooms of small whites in summer. This plant responds to pruning well and breaks out of old wood.
- When damaged by extreme cold, new suckers form at the base of the trunk.

FOLIAGE

- A mass of thin green grass-like leaves. The green form is hardier than the variegated and red leaved forms available. Pull off old foliage.
- Very wind tolerant

NURSERY CARE

- These are very hardy to most conditions so they can be placed anywhere in the nursery;
- In winter, move indoors if temperatures fall below -8°C or wrap with fleece.
- Watering: These grow fastest and best in Ireland due to the high rainfall, so watering daily will improve and increase growth in summer; winter watering – twice a week.

ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS

Allow room to spread when planting as it may develop multiple heads. As it grows the trunk can be cleaned up of old leaves and in time this will create space for under planting.

DICKSONIA ANTARCTICA**Australia Tree Fern/Soft Tree Fern/Tasmanian Tree Fern**

- Origin: Australia and Tasmania
- All Palmstead's Dicksonia antarctica Tree Ferns are salvaged from forestry clearance and all carry individual CITES certificates.

THE TRUNK

- Takes 10 years to grow one foot in Australian conditions and 5 years to grow one foot in Southern Ireland's wet cold climate; (they like humidity)
- Has a fibrous aerial root system;
- The trunk is also its root system; when planted rootlets develop below ground level from the trunk;
- When planting a bare trunk, plant enough to stand upright, up to 1/3 into a moisture retentive potting mix. It will root into this and become stable in a growing season.

FRONDS

- A flush of palm like leaves sprout from the top of the crown twice a year;
A full spring flush of up to 20 fronds and an autumn lesser flush of 4-5 fronds;
- Constant wind and heavy frost will damage the fronds; also extreme sunlight;

NURSERY CARE

- Pot and place in a sheltered area out of the wind, ideally shaded/covered area. The tree fern will remain evergreen under these conditions. Tree ferns love humidity (more humidity the lusher the fronds);
- Only feed with a liquid fertilizer, we sell a specialist feed for these plants which increased growth by 20-30%
- Water daily during summer and 2-3 times a week in winter. Water either overhead, down the crown or saturate the trunk;

ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS

Place in a sheltered, cool moist area out of the full sun and keep well watered.

NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT.

WINTER PROTECTION

In more exposed areas tie up the fronds and wrap fleece or any protective cover. A hand full of straw down the crown also protects the head. In the wild, fallen leaves are collected in this crown, which is the plant's natural protection.

ERIOBOTRYA JAPONICA**Loquat**

- Origin: China & Japan
- A great architectural plant with larger evergreen ridged foliage similar to some species Rhododendrons. Available as a bush form or a half standard tree. Hardy to colder than -5°C established plants are hardier and can fruit well even in cold counties.

THE TRUNK

- With half standards the trunks are generally 120cm high.

FOLIAGE

- Large dark green corrugated up to 30cm long with a downy underside. Evergreen but will shed older leaves as new growth develops in spring. If some are frost damaged cut off and new growths will appear.
- Fragrant flowers appear in spring and can be followed if not frost damaged by apricot type fruits in hot summers.

NURSERY CARE

- Pot in good rich compost and apply a slow release Osmacote. Keep well watered.
- Water daily during summer and 2 times a week in winter.

ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS

Place in a spot sheltered from cold winds, in full sun / part shade (for larger leaves) and keep well watered plus feed in spring and summer. Makes a good wall shrub or tree. Prune in spring if required.

WINTER PROTECTION

No specific protection required.

EUPHORBIA
Spurge family

- A large family of useful evergreen sub shrubs / perennials.
- Euphorbia melifera – Honey Spurge – has exotic lush mid green foliage slightly glossy with a yellow mid rib. Grows to 1.5m but to 3m in mild areas over time. Carries lime green flowers in mid spring to summer.
- Euphorbia wulfenii grows to 1.5m with dusty blue green foliage and large heads of acid green flowers. Some smaller cultivars now available too. Statuesque and gives a bold display.

FOLIAGE

- Mostly evergreen foliage which can be used to contrast with other foliage shapes. Some have a more pronounced midrib.

NURSERY CARE

- It should be potted in a humus-rich, well-drained soil;
- Prefers part to full shade but will tolerate full sun.
- Water potted specimens moderately, less when not in full growth;

ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS

- This plant should be kept in a part shade position;
- Water moderately if containerised, less when not in full growth; Established plants can be very drought tolerant and need little care.

WINTER PROTECTION

No specific winter protection required

FATSIA JAPONICA
False Caster Oil Plant

- Origin: Asia
- A dramatic evergreen shrub with large palmate leaves adds a jungle effect to plantings and a good foil for finer leaved textures. A member of the ivy family and bears useful late nectar flowers in October.
- The related Fatshedera lizei is an offspring and gives a similar effect for smaller spaces.

FOLIAGE

- Large evergreen palmate leaves up to 30+ cm across with a glossy finish. The plant can achieve 2-4 m in height and 2-3m across. Protect from cold winds.

NURSERY CARE

- It should be potted in a humus-rich, well-drained soil;
- Prefers part to full shade but will tolerate full sun.
- Water potted specimens moderately, less when not in full growth;
- Protect from wind.

ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS

- This plant should be kept in a part shade position;
- Water moderately, less when not in full growth;

WINTER PROTECTION

No specific winter protection required. If foliage or shoot tips get winter / frost scorched they can be pruned back and the plant responds well to pruning.

FERNS

- Palmstead stock a good range of ferns, evergreen and deciduous which can add a textural variety to exotic plantings. They tolerate shade so are good under-planting candidates, allowing their foliage to contrast with larger players.
- *Asplenium scolopendrium* – Hearts Tongue Fern with glossy evergreen leathery strap like leaves – works well with exotic planting.
- *Blechnum spicant* – one of our native almost evergreen ferns likes moisture and slightly acid conditions.
- *Dicksonia*- Tree Ferns – see entry above.
- *Dryopteris* – as the name suggests good for drier spots – base of hedgerows etc.
- *Matteuccia* – Shuttlecock Fern – attractive fresh green fronds unfurl in spring.
- *Osmunda regalis* our Royal Fern is deciduous but will develop a tall statuesque shape (up to 1.5m+) but needs good moisture levels to achieve this. Will take full sun. The fronds are coloured butter yellow in autumn.
- *Polypodium vulgare* – one of our native ferns and evergreen, deeply cut leathery fronds.
- *Polystichum* - good does the shield ferns for underplanting.

Evergreen Ferns: *Asplenium*, *Blechnum*, *Polypodium*, *Polystichum*

Ferns for dry shade: *Dryopteris affinis*, *D. filix-mas*, *Polypodium vulgare*

Ferns for damp conditions: *Asplenium scolopendrium*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Blechnum*,

Ferns for bog / waterside: *Matteuccia*, *Osmunda*

Ferns for hedge/ shrubbery: *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris affinis*, *D. filix-mas*, *Polystichum setiferum*

NURSERY CARE

- All should be potted in a humus-rich, well-drained soil. Prefers part to full shade but some will tolerate full sun. Water potted specimens moderately, less when not in full growth;

ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS

- This plant should be kept in a part shade position; Mulch well;

WINTER PROTECTION

No specific winter protection required.

GUNNERA MANICATA

- Origin: South America
- Plant evocative of tropical jungle with massive foliage developing rapidly from this herbaceous perennial. Available in 3, 10 and 25 litre pots.

FOLIAGE

- Giant spiny Rhubarb leaves can be 2m across if well fed with food and water; They are held on spiny stems. Can grow to 2.5m tall and 3-4m wide.
- As foliage dies off in autumn use the leaves to cover the crown from frosts.

NURSERY CARE

- Keep well watered – water daily in spring/summer and a few times a week in winter;
- Grow in a rich humus compost. Established plants benefit from mulching. All that growth needs feeding.
- Protect from frost with old leaves.

ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS

- Enjoys a shady to semi-shade position;
- Grow in deep humus rich soil with good access to water. Or plant close to a water source to enjoy the largest foliage;
- Whilst hardy, protect from frost for best effects, using the old leaves to protect the crown is the most practical method.

WINTER PROTECTION

Protect from frost / cold drying winds.

MUSA BASJOO**Japanese Hardy Banana**

- Origin: Japan
- A root hardy banana. Up to 10-15' high. Hardy to -5C, if cut down by frosts will re-grow from base.
- Benefits from some winter protection see below.

THE TRUNK

- Fleshy trunk, best to protect overwinter by wrapping in hessian. New growth will then appear from top of trunk. Do this for 3+ years and you may see flowers but don't hold your breath for edible fruits.

FOLIAGE

- Huge leaves, the ultimate in exotic foliage. In summer at max speed, it can grow a new 6' leaf every week. But needs a good water supply and rich soil to achieve this.

CULTIVATION REQUIREMENTS

- Good rich soil, plenty of manure/mulch, well drained but with plenty of food and moisture in summer. Lush growth requires plentiful supply of food, so feed richly and water well.
- Does not want to be in heavy wet soil overwinter.
- Mulch annually with rich manure or compost.
- Will produce offsets which can be culled or harvested to spread the exotic message.

ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS

- Plant in a sheltered spot, bananas hate wind and the shredded leaves spoil the exotic paddle leaf effect.
- Cultivate ground well, provide good drainage for winter survival. Incorporate rich composts and feed well/top dress in spring with general fertilizer.
- Irrigate over summer especially in dry weather to maintain growth.
- Will grow in full sun but tolerates light partial shade.

WINTER PROTECTION

- At first shiver of winter, cut back the leaves and wrap the trunk in hessian, fleece, or bubble wrap (but allow it to breathe). Cover top of trunk with straw/hay and protect top from rain. Uncover in spring as growth starts, so keep an eye on it. New growth will appear from the top of trunk.
- If left unprotected the trunk may be killed and new growth will start from the base. The roots are hardy.

**MUSA ENSETE (ENSETE VENTRICOSUM) + RUBRA
Abyssinian Plantain (Banana)**

- Origin: Abyssinia
- A big banana up to 3-4m (root hardy banana. Up to 10-12' high. If it gets too big cut down with a machete or bread knife and it will re-grow.
- Half - Hardy, if planted in a choice sheltered warm spot (well drained) and given winter protection, or lift and overwinter, or best - plant in a conservatory.
Demands winter protection see below.

THE TRUNK

- Fleshy trunk, best to protect overwinter by wrapping in hessian.

FOLIAGE

- Huge leaves, M. enste has huge green paddles. M. ensete Rubra has red mid rib or whole underside of leaf is red if grown in good light.

CULTIVATION REQUIREMENTS

- Good rich soil, well drained but with plenty of food and moisture in summer. Lush growth requires plentiful supply of food, so feed richly and water well.
- Does not want to be in heavy wet soil overwinter.
- Mulch annually with rich manure or compost.

ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS

- Plant in a sheltered spot, bananas hate wind and the shredded leaves spoil the exotic paddle leaf effect.
- Or plant in a conservatory. Watch out for red spider mites or use a biological control.
- Cultivate ground well, provide good drainage for winter survival. Incorporate rich composts and feed well/top dress in spring with general fertilizer.
- Irrigate over summer especially in dry weather to maintain growth.
- Will grow in full sun but tolerates light partial shade.

WINTER PROTECTION

- If very very very sheltered outside cut back the leaves and wrap the trunk in hessian, fleece and bubble wrap (but allow it to breathe). Cover top of trunk with straw/hay and protect. Mulch base of trunk too. Uncover in spring as growth starts, so keep an eye on it and protect from late frosts. New growth will appear from the top of trunk.
- Lift and bring inside, conservatory, greenhouse, shed and keep barely moist overwinter. Re-plant in spring.
- In conservatory cut back tired foliage.

MELIANTHUS MAJOR

Honey Bush

- Origin: South Africa
- Tall shrub / sub shrub with attractive glaucous grey foliage which is sharply toothed. Vary architectural and exotic. Not fully hardy and can be cut back to ground level by hard frosts in which case it then behaves like a herbaceous perennial.

THE TRUNK

Sturdy upright branches are hollow but need little support. Generally this grows to 1.5 m tall if generating annually from the base. In mild sites it will grow to 2-3m tall and develop chocolate to brick red flowers in early summer.

If cut down by winter cold – prune out dead growth and new shoots will appear.

FOLIAGE

Spreading pinnate leaves 30-50cm long carry boldly toothed leaflets. These are silver grey and glaucous. And are the plants best feature.

CULTIVATION REQUIREMENTS

- Good medium rich soil, well drained but with plenty of food and moisture in summer.
- Grow in full sun.
- Does not want to be in heavy wet soil overwinter.
- Mulch annually with dry compost. Mulching helps to protect the base and so generate new growth after hard frosts.

WINTER PROTECTION

- Benefits from a basal winter protection mulch of dry compost. Will tolerate frosts but tends to be cut down by prolonged or harsh frost. Upper parts hardy to -5°C but the base much more hardy -10°C or colder.

NANDINA DOMESTICA

Heavenly Bamboo

Origin: Asia

- Upright bamboo like evergreen shrub with delicate pinnate leaves which carry a reddish tint in winter and when young. Has unbranched stems.
- Carries small white flowers in large panicles in spring which are followed by red fruits.
- Grows up to 2m tall by 1.5m wide over time there are smaller cultivars – Firepower a dwarf form and good groundcover with bright red foliage.

CULTIVATION REQUIREMENTS

- Good medium rich soil, well drained but with plenty of food and moisture in summer.
- Grow in full sun.
- Does not want to be in heavy wet soil overwinter.
- Mulch annually with dry compost. Mulching helps to protect the base and so generate new growth after hard frosts.

WINTER PROTECTION

- No particular winter protection required.

PHOENIX CANARIENSIS**Canary Island Date Palm**

Origin: Canary Islands

A popular handsome palm seen all around the world (one has been thriving near Chelsea Bridge in London for over 25 years) because of its adaptability. However smaller plants are more vulnerable in cold conditions older specimens will be tougher.

THE TRUNK

Sturdy brown trunk which can grow up to twenty metres.

FOLIAGE

Deep green feathery long arching fronds which can spread up to 5 metres;
Produces fruit; Tolerates strong wind, salt and pollution.

NURSERY CARE

Never allow the roots to dry – especially the young palms; Plant is very gritty and well drained compost. This palm can be placed indoors or outdoors in full sun or semi shade;
Always ensure it is kept moist in a free draining mixture; Use a fast release fertiliser;
Water daily in spring/summer and twice a week in winter.

ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS

Indoors: in a well-lit area; do not allow to dry out;
When potting as a specimen use a large pot as it is a fast grower;
Outdoors: hardy once well established; requires winter protection
Allow room to spread when planting;
Extremely wind and salt tolerant.

WINTER PROTECTION

This is a hardy palm and can be left outdoors in winter (-8.5°C max.). Sharp drainage is essential, waterlogging will result in death.
Wrap with fleece when temperatures remain below -5°C for extended periods.
Keep moist in winter, but do not overwater.

PHORMIUM TENAX**Variegata and Purpurea - New Zealand Flax**

- Origin: New Zealand
- A very hardy and versatile plant suitable for all conditions. Two main forms P. tenax and P. cookianum and now many cultivars from breeding work offer a great range of foliage colours – though the poorer (older) forms tend to develop muddy colours in time.

THE TRUNK

This is a clumping plant with no trunk.

FOLIAGE

- A mass of sword shaped grass-like leaves;
- P. variegata is green with variegated yellow stripes; P. purpurea has maroon/red leaves
- Is wind tolerant; also good in coastal gardens.
- The P. tenax forms Can grow to 2.5m long;
- The P. cookianum forms (mountain flax) are shorter and grow to approx. 1m.

NURSERY CARE

- A free draining mixture with slow release fertiliser will produce lush growth;
- When inside a glasshouse, ensure it is kept moist but do not overwater; watch out for mealy bugs.
- Watering: three times a week in spring/summer; once a week in winter;
- Tolerates full sun and part shade.

ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS

- This is a versatile plant and can be placed anywhere in the garden;
- If left in the pot it will need to be repotted every two years at least;
Use a free draining mixture
- Produces a flower spike with red flowers in spring/summer;
- Do not place outdoors if temperatures are below -8°C for extended periods;

WINTER PROTECTION

If outdoors during cold winters (-5°C), wrap in fleece or move indoors if potted.

PAULONIA TOMENTOSA**Foxglove tree**

- Origin: China
- This tree works best in the exotic garden when coppiced or stooled each year. This stimulates enormous growth and great larger than dinner plate leaves. The growth rates of the regrowth is spectacular especially if thinned down to a single stem.

THE TRUNK

- Cut back each early spring before growth starts and regrowth thinned to a single stem. Allow the plant to establish for 2-3 years before coppicing.

FOLIAGE

- Large slightly furry leaves up to 60cm across can be achieved;
- As with many plants use the carrot and stick approach. If you want big leaves feed and water well and mulch annually.

NURSERY CARE

- Grow in well drained humus rich compost.

ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS

- Ideal position is under evergreen trees or even

WINTER PROTECTION

- This tree is hardy and does not need winter protection. However the larges leaves are produced when grown in a sheltered spot..

TRACHYCARPUS FORTUNEI**Chinese Windmill or Chusan Palm**

- Origin: The Himalayas, China
- Undoubtedly the hardiest palm for UK outdoors. It is a handsome palm that has become very popular due to its versatility.

THE TRUNK

- Tall, slender and slow growing – up to 10 metres;
- It is covered in distinctive brown hairy fibre.

FOLIAGE

- Large green fan shaped leaves with long divided segments that grow upright;
- Will tolerate sun, shade, frost and snow but NOT CONSTANT STRONG WINDS.
- Leaf span can be up to 1-1.5m in mature specimens.

NURSERY CARE

- Pot and place in a sheltered area outdoors or in a semi shade position indoors;
- If indoors: water twice a week in spring/summer and weekly in winter;
- If outdoors water weekly in spring/summer and monthly in winter;
- This palm continues to root in winter;
- Cold hardy to -17°C and has been known to tolerate – 18°C to –20°C. This is one palm that enjoys cooler weather;
- Pot in free draining mix with short and long-term fertilisers.

ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS

- This palm is cold hardy enough to live happily outdoors – even the young palms;
- Constant wind damages the foliage;
- Keep well watered if indoors;

WINTER PROTECTION

None, except protect from strong winds.

Notes: