



The Areca Palm, native to Madagascar, is one of the most popular indoor houseplants sold today. Indoors an Areca Palm is a medium sized exotic looking plant that can reach a height of 6-8 feet; outdoors it may be as tall as 25 feet. The Areca Palm gets its nickname, the Butterfly Palm, because its long feathery fronds (leaves) arch upwards off multiple reed- like stems, resembling butterfly wings. Each frond has between 40-60 leaflets on it. When first bought, Areca Palms are a delight, inexpensive good-sized plants with beautiful green upright fronds. However, over time, the overall appearance of an Areca Palm may diminish; the older bottom fronds turn yellow and the larger fronds droop and bend.

CARE

LIGHT

Areca Palms require good indirect light. Too much light or direct sun burns the fronds and causes them to yellow.

WATER

Keep the soil of an Areca Palm moist but never soggy. Allow the top couple of inches to dry out before watering. Remember, the soil at the bottom of the container is much wetter than the soil at the top. Never allow an Areca Palm to sit in water. If your household water has a lot of chemicals in it or passes through a water softener allow it to sit out over- night before using it or use distilled water. Water containing a great deal of chemicals or salt can spot the leaves.

FERTILIZER

Feed an Areca Palm monthly when it is actively growing with a balanced liquid fertilizer at 1/2 the recommended strength. Too much salty fertilizer spots the leaves.

TEMPERATURE

Areca Palms prefer temperatures between 65°-75° during the day and around 55° at night. This plant is very sensitive to low temperature; if you place it outside during the summer be sure to bring it in before temperatures dip below 50°.

HUMIDITY

High humidity is essential for the fronds of an Areca Palm to keep looking good.

FLOWERING

An Areca Palm rarely blooms indoor if it does the flowers are very small and inconspicuous.

PESTS

Spider mites and mealy bugs can be a problem. Check frequently for pests by examining the backs of the fronds and new growth. If an Areca Palm becomes infected, spray with warm soapy water or an insecticidal soap at 1/2 the recommended strength. Spraying with a product containing alcohol can damage the fronds.

DISEASES

Because Areca palms require high humidity, they are susceptible to the fungus pink rot and gnoderma. Pink rot develops in moist soil and causes the fronds in the crown (top) of the palm to turn brown and droop. Ganoderma, which is spread through the soil and on pruning tools, causes the lower fronds to droop and turn yellow, then gradually works its way up the plant. Neither of these diseases is treatable but both are preventable by keeping the soil drier and providing good air circulation around the plant.

SOIL

Use a rich acidic soil that drains well. Add sand if the soil is too heavy and clay like.

POT SIZE

Plant an Areca palm in a container twice the size of the root ball. Palms like being a little root -bound so don't rush to repot.

PRUNING

Prune any brown or yellow fronds that appear. Use clean wet scissors to prune brown tips on the fronds. Areca Palms have only one growing tip at the very top of the plant; if that tip is damaged or cut off.

PROPAGATION

Areca Palms are propagated by seeds, by separating the offsets or suckers at the base of a mature plant or by plant division.

CLEAN AIR PLANT

It has shown that an Areca Palm is effective in removing benzene, formaldehyde and trichloroethylene from the air

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