



BAMBOO PALM • CHAMAEDOREA SEIFRIZII • REED PALMS

The beautiful, compact, easy care Bamboo Palm, native to Mexico and Central America, is perfect for low light areas. Indoors, a Bamboo or Reed Palm, can reach a height of 5-7ft. and a width of 3-5ft. with multiple reed-like stems growing in clumps. There are about 10-15 fronds on each stem of a bamboo palm and each frond has 10-14 pinnate (feathery) dark green leaflets. The base of each stem is covered in a tan colored fiber that resembles bamboo. This graceful palm is a hardy variety of palm.

CARE

LIGHT

Although a Bamboo Palm grows faster in bright indirect light, it still does well in medium light and even low light if you're careful not to over-water.

WATER

Allow the top 1/3 of the soil of a bamboo palm to dry out before watering. These plants like barely moist but never soggy soil. Never allow a bamboo palm to sit in the excess water that drains from the pot. Do not use water that has passed through a softener because the high salt content damages the leaves. Leaf tips look pale in color and green leaves fall off an over-watered bamboo palm. New growth and leaf tips turn brown when a bamboo palm is under-watered. The confusing thing is that yellow leaves can develop when the plant is over or under- watered, so you need to check the soil as far down as you can to know if the plant needs water.

FERTILIZER

Feed a Bamboo Palm monthly in the spring and summer with a fertilizer high in nitrogen at 1/2 the recommended strength. Don't use plant food if a bamboo palm is not actively growing or if the soil is very dry.

TEMPERATURE

A Bamboo Palm does well in temperatures between 65°-80°F.

HUMIDITY

All palms, including Bamboo Palms, like high humidity but still do well in basic household humidity.

PESTS

Bamboo palms are very susceptible to spider mites, scale, and mealy bugs. Keep a bamboo palm clean by spraying it often with a mixture of biodegradable liquid soap and water. If the pests persist, spray the plant with a household safe insecticidal soap.

DISEASES

Root rot due to over watering, sooty mold, fungal and viral infections such as rust.

SOIL

Bamboo Palms need a basic well-aerated potting soil that drains quickly but still retains water.

POT SIZE

Re-pot when the roots have filled the existing container.

PRUNING

Brown leaf tips on a bamboo palm should be cut off with scissors, and bare stalks should be removed. Always clean your plant tools in alcohol after using them to prevent spreading plant diseases from plant to plant.

PROPAGATION

Bamboo palms are propagated from seeds. This is a very slow growing plant and It usually takes 2-5 years for a bamboo palm to reach a decent size. I'd recommend leaving propagation to the professionals and buying an established plant.

CLEAN AIR PLANT

NASA lists bamboo palm plants as excellent plants to clean the air of harmful chemicals.