

Livistona australis

COMMON NAME

cabbage tree palm

FAMILY

Areaceae

AUTHORITY

Livistona australis (R.Br.) Mart.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Monocotyledons

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Well naturalised on Kawau Island, otherwise mainly confined to the vicinity of plant specimens in urban areas. This is because the fruits are of sufficient size that most birds cannot consume them. However, kererū (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) can and do distribute fruit. This is possibly how it has become so well established on Kawau Island.

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream

LIFE CYCLE

Long-lived tree. Reproduces exclusively by seed, which is a hard nut enclosed by a fleshy fruit. Fruit dispersed by birds and gravity.

YEAR NATURALISED

1980

ORIGIN

Australia and scattered in tropics.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Disposal Method

Hand pull or dig out seedlings (watchout for the spines), destroy fruiting adults. Plant only males, or remove fruiting panicles if the trees are desired.

Preferred Control

Its obvious—better not to plant it and use another palm species that does not set viable seed instead.

TOLERANCES

Cold sensitive

ETYMOLOGY

australis: Southern

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/livistona-australis/>



Insertion of fronds into trunk. Auckland. May 2007. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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