

Howea belmoreana

COMMON NAME

Kentia palm, howea

FAMILY

Arecaceae

AUTHORITY

Howea belmoreana (C.Moore et F.Muell.) Becc.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Monocotyledons

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

In New Zealand the less commonly cultivated of the two *Howea* species (known as Kentia Palms in the Horticultural Trade). Usually found in old gardens or parks, as isolated trees. Most fruit is harvested by people before it matures.

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

Year Round

LIFE CYCLE

Long-lived perennial tree. Reproduces exclusively by seed. Seed large, 30–50 mm long, somewhat fleshy, bright or dull red when ripe. Dispersed by gravity and possibly birds.

YEAR NATURALISED

2007

ORIGIN

Lord Howe Island

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Cold intolerant

ETYMOLOGY

howea: Named after Lord Howe Island where these palms are found.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson AT, Smith HA. 1986. *Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning*. Landsman Bookshop Ltd, Buckenhill, UK.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/howea-belmoreana/>



Adult fruiting tree. N/b distinctly arching fronds, Mt Albert, Auckland, May 2007. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Fruiting spadices. N/b that spadices are single not two or more arising from a single broad base, Mt Albert, Auckland, May 2007. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.