

Trachycarpus fortunei

COMMON NAME

Chinese windmill palm

FAMILY

Areaceae

AUTHORITY

Trachycarpus fortunei (Hook.) H.Wendl.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Monocotyledons

NVS CODE

TRAFOR

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Disturbed bush and shrubland margins, river and stream edges, wetlands.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Medium sized palm with straight trunk, unbranched, from 4–12 m tall.

Trunk covered with dark brown fibrous remains of petiole bases. **Leaves** fan-shaped, 75–100 cm, divided into numerous narrow leaflets. Petioles about 1 m long with stout sharp marginal teeth. **Flowers** numerous, yellow. **Fruit** a small berry about 10 mm, yellow at first, later deep blue-black.

SIMILAR TAXA

Three other *Trachycarpus* species are also cultivated in New Zealand. *T. martianus* has fibrous leaf scars restricted to just below leaves; *T. takil* has fibres closely appressed to the trunk; *T. wagnerianus* has smaller leaves (to 45 cm), fibres closely attached to trunk and white flowers.

FLOWERING

November, December, January

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

March

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Prolific seed is produced which is dispersed by birds, people and gravity.

YEAR NATURALISED

1959

ORIGIN

China

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental



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CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Invasive and hard to control, best not to plant it. Try another palm species that does not set viable seed.

TOLERANCES

Moderately cold and drought tolerant once established.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/trachycarpus-fortunei/>