



Trachycarpus fortunei



Width	3-4m
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil moisture	suitable for dry soil
Paving	tolerates partial paving
Winter hardiness zone	7b (-14,9 to -12,3 °C)
Application	tree containers, roof gardens, coastal areas, small gardens
Synonyms	Chamaerops excelsa

Trachycarpus fortunei (Chinese palm, hemp palm), the most hardy of all palms, is a large evergreen plant with a sturdy trunk and a dense crown of hand-shaped leaves. Although it can grow up to 20 m tall, it is more often seen up to about 10 m tall. The deeply incised leaves are dark green, leathery and slightly hairy on the underside. They are on stiff petioles that can be up to 1 m long. The male and female flowers are on separate plants; the former in dense panicles, the latter in clusters. The fruit is a small, black drupe. Trachycarpus fortunei is native to China and Japan, where it grows in mountain forests and rocky sites. It was introduced to Europe in 1846 and has been widely planted as an ornamental tree. It is also cultivated for its fibre, which is used to make rope and bags, and for its oil, which is used in lubricants and cosmetics. The hardiness of this palm makes it an ideal plant for growing in colder climates, in the Netherlands it can withstand temperatures down to -18 C. However, it should be protected from strong winds, as its leaves can be easily damaged by strong winds.