



Attractive, dark-green palms that are native to tropical climates, Queen Palms are especially popular as poolside trees because of the tropical atmosphere they lend. They usually grow to a height of 25 feet in the Phoenix area. Queen Palms flourish in their native tropical fertile, well-drained soils, which are high in organic matter. Our desert soils are infertile, low in organic matter, poorly structured, and often poorly drained. As imported guests, Queen Palms have a difficult time and require special care.

Proper Watering Essential

Water the entire root zone to a depth of 2 – 3 feet. There should be adequate time between irrigation's to allow the soil to drain thoroughly and let oxygen back into the pore spaces of the soil, but soil should not be allowed to dry out completely between irrigations. Oxygen is essential for respiration and mineral uptake. Without oxygen, roots cannot survive. **Over watering** and poor drainage also encourages the proliferation of root pathogens such as Phytophthora, and Fusarium. **No amount of remedial care can restore palms that are not watered properly.**

Deficiency Symptoms

Queen Palms often do well for a few years before deficiency symptoms begin to appear. If you observe declining palms you may see any number of the following deficiency symptoms: Pale green or yellow color, desiccated brown fronds, necrotic streaks, stunted misshapen fronds with frizzled edges, accordion shaped fronds, and reduction in number and size of fronds. If corrective measures are not taken, they will gradually starve to death.

Tree Doctors' Prescription for Queen Palm Recovery and Maintenance

1. Root feed with **Tree Doctors' Corrective Palm Formula, a Nitroform-based time-release fertilizer with a full range of micro and macronutrients.**
2. **Systemic fungicide** into the root (systemic fungicide to be used only when Phytophthora damage to roots is indicated.)
3. Repeat treatments in 4 to 6 months.

Fungicides are often recommended as a preventative measure or as a treatment when palm crowns begin to look stressed. However current knowledge suggests that any response of declining palms attributed to fungicide treatment probably is the result of a general improvement in care (increased water, fertilizer) rather than to the fungicide.

Pruning

Don't over prune! No fronds should be removed that hang below 60 degrees. Every frond is a source of food and energy and is important for survival. If they are trimmed soon after the fruit bearing stalk appears (between June and July), they produce very little litter. Often people prefer to trim these palms again in November to maintain a more manicured look. They should never be trimmed with spikes as it injures the palm and leaves disfiguring wounds. While most Fan Palms can be climbed in this manner, all Queen Palms should be trimmed using a ladder. Only loose frond bases (skins) which can be pulled away by hand should be taken; skinning these palms with a knife can cause severe injury to the palm. The skins act as insulation protecting the heart of the palm from excessive heat while retaining moisture.

"An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure"

Recovery of deficient palms is slow and will depend on the extent of the damage and the vigor remaining in the palm. The deficient fronds will not recover normal shape. Limited response to treatment will be seen until new fronds are grown. Even the new fronds will show deficiency symptoms after treatment, since mineral deficiencies affect the unformed fronds before they emerge. It may take up to 2 years for queen palms to replace deficient fronds with healthy fronds *if* the roots are healthy enough to take up the nutrients that are applied. A regular program of preventative maintenance is more successful than trying to cure Queen Palms once they have become deficient.