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about three years after planting and are in full production by around nine years. They are shorter-lived than the tall varieties, living around 40 50 years on average. Their coconuts are often much more abundant but typically smaller. They tend to be more susceptible to drought, storms, and other environmental conditions than tall varieties. However, they are more resistant to the Lethal Yellowing Disease that has devastated many tall varieties. Images by Kalai, Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0The King Coconut is considered a semi-dwarf variety, reaching heights of 30 60 ft tall. This coconut variety is native to Sri Lanka and parts of India, where it grows wild and is a common part of the diet for the local people who drink their sweet water and eat its nutritious meat. It is a highly nutritious variety with large quantities of vitamins, amino acids, calcium, sodium, potassium, phosphate, and chloride. King Coconuts are orange and shaped like a football, are available all year, and are harvested after 7 8 months. They are grown mostly for milk production and coconut water. Best grown in full sun in well-drained sandy soil with medium moisture. King Coconut is a semi-dwarf tree growing 30 60 ft tall. It produces coconuts in clusters of up to 20 large fruits on a large peduncle. Fruits are elongated oval, 8 12 long, usually bright orange, with smooth, shiny skin that may have an occasional dark abrasion on it. Green varieties also occur. Other Common Names: Thmbili (in Sinhala)Native Area: Sri Lanka, India, IndonesiaUSDA Growing Zones: 10b 11Average Size at Maturity: 30 60 ft to (80 ft) tall, 15 30 ft spreadImage via Lets Grow FloridaThe Fiji Dwarf is a unique dwarf. It is a much thicker tree and shares other characteristics with tall varieties but in a dwarf, self-pollinating, early fruit-producing form. They are widely used for their fruit, water, and oil production and their ornamental values because they have a lush top of green leaves. The USDA calls them one tough nut because they are more durable than other dwarf varieties. They are resistant to wind, poor soil, and hurricanes. The Fiji Dwarf Coconut has the highest genetic diversity of all dwarf varieties, coming second to the tall varieties. Unlike the tall varieties, however, they are highly resistant to diseases. This cultivar was widely planted in Florida and the Caribbean after the Lethal Yellowing Disease ravaged the tall varieties in the 1970s. Best grown in full sun in well-drained soil. It requires fairly consistent medium moisture. Fiji Dwarf is a unique slower-growing dwarf variety with a swollen bole at the base of its thick, crooked trunk that looks more like a tall variety. They also have a unique leaf structure with shorter, wider leaflets that are closer together, making the leaves look richer and lusher than most other varieties and creating a fuller, more dense canopy. Petioles are green or bronze. Its large fruits are elongated ovals in green or bronze. Other Common Names: Niu Leka Dwarf, Samoan DwarfNative Area/Origin: Unknown, but probably the South Pacific.USDA Growing Zones: 10 11Average Size at Maturity: 20 25 ft tall, 10 20 ft spreadImages by Fern Berg and Kadiyam Nursery/Malayan Yellow Dwarf Coconut may be the most widespread dwarf coconut in the world. It was introduced in Malaysia in the late 1800s by Indonesian growers. It is a very high-yielding coconut that performs well in tropical climates that are consistently hot. In the right climate, it is very easy to grow and produces medium-sized pale yellow coconuts just a few years after planting. They are drought-tolerant, salt-tolerant, and tolerant of any soil, provided it is well-drained. Best grown in full sun in well-drained soil. Unlike most coconuts, these require a deep organic mulch around them to do well. Malayan coconuts are heavy feeders and perform best when fed regularly. The Malayan Yellow Dwarf Coconut is a medium-sized tree (30 60 ft) with a narrow, straight trunk without a swollen bole. Its mature leaves have pale yellow petioles the same color as its mature fruit. It produces small white, inconspicuous flowers in panicle inflorescences in spring. It produces medium-sized oblong fruits that are yellow-green when young but turn pale yellow when ripe and are about 6 12 long, and weigh 1.5 1.75 lbs. Other Common Names: Malayan DwarfNative Area/Origin: MalaysiaUSDA Growing Zones: 10b 11Average Size at Maturity: 30 60 ft tall, 15 25 ft spreadImages by Fern Berg and IordrassaqThe Golden Malayan Dwarf Coconut is similar in every way to the Malayan Yellow Dwarf except in the color of its slightly larger fruits. These are best grown in tropical areas in sheltered locations in full sun with organic mulch around them. They require medium moisture and are adaptable to any soil type, provided they are well-drained. They produce fruit early, and their golden-orange, bronze, or reddish color provides ornamental interest. The fruits are excellent for cooking and eating fresh. They also produce excellent quality coconut water. They're drought-tolerant and salt-tolerant. Malayan coconuts are heavy feeders and perform best when fed regularly. The Golden Malayan Dwarf Coconut is a medium-sized tree (30 60 ft) with a narrow, straight trunk without a swollen bole. Its mature leaves have green petioles, differentiating it from the other Malayan Dwarf coconuts with yellow, gold, or bronze petioles. It produces small white, inconspicuous flowers in panicle inflorescences in spring. It produces medium-sized, 6 12 long, 1.5 1.75 lbs, oblong fruits that remain green when they are ripe. They differ from the other Malayan dwarfs in their color and in that they contain less meat but more water. It has a thinner trunk and petiole than the similar Maypan Coconut. Other Common Names: Green Malayan PalmOrigin: MalaysiaUSDA Growing Zones: 10b 11 outdoorsAverage Size at Maturity: 30 40 ft tall, 15 20 ft spreadImage by Setiawanap, Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0The Macapuno Coconut is a naturally occurring genetic mutant dwarf tree. It has an abnormal development of its endosperm that has almost no water, but the meat is gelatinous, soft, and fleshy instead of firm like other coconuts, and also contains a much higher sugar content. Its famous in Asia, where the gelatinous flesh is highly prized as a sweet delicacy and is made into high-end desserts that are sold at a premium price. They are also highly nutritious, containing significant amounts of protein and oil. Best grown in full sun in any well-drained soil. They have medium moisture requirements. The name Macapuno is derived from a Filipino word meaning to be full. This variety suffers from poor germination making large-scale commercial production impossible due to the mutant endosperm that cannot nourish the developing embryo. Newer in vitro methods are being developed that are showing some success. The Macapuno Coconut is a small coconut tree that seldom exceeds 16 ft tall. It has a unique genetic mutation in a recessive gene that leads to abnormal development of its endosperm, creating soft, jelly-like flesh and little water. It is impossible to distinguish macapuno coconuts from normal ones based on the external appearance of their fruit. Experienced coconut handlers can recognize them by the sound they make when you tap them, as this will be different than those with firmer flesh and water inside. Otherwise, you would need to open the fruit in order to identify it. This same feature has been observed in other varieties of coconuts where the mutation has also occurred spontaneously. Other Common Names: Kopyor Coconut, Makapuno CoconutNative Area/Origin: A naturally occurring genetic mutant discovered in the Philippines in 1931.USDA Growing Zones: 10b 11Average Size at Maturity: 10 16 ft to (20 ft) tall, 8 10 ft spreadImage by India MartThe Chowghat Orange Dwarf Coconut produces fruits just 3 4 years after planting and it lives for about 50 years on average. Like all dwarfs, only one tree is needed for pollination to occur. The size and sweetness of the fruits have made this variety quite popular. It produces up to 65 large-sized orange coconuts annually with abundant meat and sweet water inside. Best grown in full sun in any well-drained soil. It has medium moisture requirements. This tree is sensitive to high winds and drought and needs to be in a protected location with consistently moist soil. It should be grown in areas where temperatures seldom drop below 70 F. This variety came from coconuts collected from Kerala, India, in 1940 and was first released for widespread cultivation in 1991. The Chowghat Orange Dwarf Coconut is a truly dwarf tree, seldom growing taller than about 16 ft. It is an early-flowering variety that starts bearing fruit about 3 4 years after planting. Fruits are round to almost round, and their smooth skin is orange when ripe. They have a significant amount of sweet meat and water inside. Other Common Names: Gowripathram, ChemthengNative Area/Origin: Kerala, IndiaUSDA Growing Zones: 10b 11Average Size at Maturity: 12 16 ft tall, 10 18 spreadHybrids are normally superior to both the tall and dwarf varieties in producing earlier, higher quality, and more abundant fruits because they are bred for this purpose. High-yielding hybrids are also normally bred to resist pests, disease, and drought. Image by PalmcoThe Maypan is a hybrid engineered for its cold hardiness, tolerance of adverse weather, and its exceptional resistance to Lethal Yellowing Disease. It was created in Jamaica in the 1960s from the cross-pollination of the Dwarf Malayan and the Panama Tall, creating a medium-sized tree. Though cold-hardy, it performs best where temperatures never drop below 40 F. Best grown in full sun in any well-drained soil. It has medium moisture requirements. It is drought-tolerant and very salt-tolerant, thriving in sandy beach soils. They don't produce fruits until they are 6 8 years of age, but once they start producing, they yield 120 140 fruits per year. Fertilize at least three yearly, in the spring, summer, and fall. The Maypan Coconut is a medium to large-sized palm that reaches an average height of 60 ft with a thick, often crooked or leaning trunk and a distinctively swollen bole. It has an umbrella-shaped crown that is sometimes rounded. Leaves are medium to dark green and are shorter than some varieties with shorter leaf segments, similar to their Malayan parent. Fruits are variable in size but usually medium to large, conical in shape, and in colors that range from yellowish-green to reddish-brown. They have a large amount of meat and water and relatively little husk. Other Common Names: NA/Origin: JamaicaUSDA Growing Zones: 10 11Average Size at Maturity: 50 80 ft tall, 20 40 ft spreadCoconuts, all being from the same species, Cocos nucifera, have very similar features. They are also very tall trees, whose identifying features are often located far above the ground, where it is difficult to see those features. Furthermore, there seems to be a lack of accurate botanical descriptions available for most coconut cultivars. So, we typically rely on very general characteristics of their trunks and their fruit to help us identify the different types of coconuts. Coconut leaves are massive, anywhere from about 12 to 23 ft long each. They are pinnately divided into about 100 single-folded leaf segments (often called leaflets). These segments are regularly but somewhat obliquely (asymmetrically also called sub-opposite) arranged on each side of the midrib (often called a rachis). This arrangement is often called feather-like, and palms with these leaves are called feather palms since the leaves resemble a feather. They are technically not pinnately compound leaves made of individual leaflets because the leaf actually starts out whole but splits into numerous uniform segments as it unfurls. You can see this clearly when you look at a young coconut whose early leaves are still whole when they emerge. You do not see this in adult trees because the leaves are higher in the crown, and by the time they fully unfurl, they have already split into their segments. Images by David J. Stang, ZipcodeZoo.com, CC BY-SA 4.0, and Fern Berg, Own Work Combined and Text Added by Lyrae Willis for Tree VitalizeLeaf segments are stiff, long, narrow, and linear in shape with entire margins and tips that are acute (the two sides are more or less straight and meet at an angle of less than 90°) or divided and asymmetrical. The segments all have parallel venation (where the leaf veins all start at the base and run parallel to each other for the length of the segment). Image by Closed Book, Own work, CCO Text Added by Lyrae Willis for Tree VitalizeCoconut leaves typically have long, unarmed (they lack spines) petioles or leaf stalks. They are flat, very thick, broad, and sheathed at the base that encircles the stem. Petioles may be green, or in many cultivars, the color of the petiole is yellow, golden, orange, or bronze, often matching the color of the ripe fruit. Their leaf shaft is coarse and cloth-like where it attaches to the stem/trunk. It does not form a crown shaft as some similar-looking palms do. Like most palm trees, coconut leaves are crowded together in a rosette at the top of an unbranched trunk to form a crown. Young leaves appear in the center of the crown as a spike-like structure with all the leaf segments compressed. Gradually the leaf opens over a period of a few months to spread into its mature form. The oldest leaves will be the lowest/most leaves. As they die, they are self-cleaning in that they do not remain attached to the trunk, leaving the trunk naturally bare below the crown of leaves without the need to prune them. Image by James St. John, CC BY 2.0Coconut trees are monoecious; they produce separate male and female flowers on the same tree, and in their case, within the same inflorescence. Tall varieties have separate male and female phases, with the male flowers often maturing first and the female flowers not maturing until the males are done, thus preventing self-pollination. Dwarf varieties have male and female flowers that mature simultaneously, allowing for self-pollination. The flowers of a coconut tree are typically small and inconspicuous and often very high on the tree, so they are not often used to aid in identification. But they all have three sepals and three petals; male flowers have six free stamens, and female flowers have a single large pistil with indistinct styles but 3 stigmas. The flowers are produced in panicle (branched) inflorescences in the axils of the leaves in the crown. They are large inflorescences, 1 2 ft long, but relatively small for a palm tree, rarely extending past the petioles and never beyond the leaf tips. Inflorescences emerge in a woody, beaked, boat-shaped spathe (peduncular bract) that can remain on the tree for long periods of time before it splits open to reveal the mature inflorescence. Inflorescences are branched with 1 or 2 orders of branching, and there are numerous small male flowers at the tips of the inflorescences (see photo below). Inflorescences have much fewer but much larger, round female flowers (sometimes called buttons) located at the base of the inflorescence, and 1 2 male flowers subtend each one. Images by Varghese K James, Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, and Kembangraps, Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0 Combined and Text Added by Lyrae Willis for Tree VitalizeCoconuts are not actually a nut. Botanically speaking, they are dry drupes. That is because they are made of the endosperm that we eat (the white meat of the coconut) that is encased in a hard, fibrous endocarp (the shell), which is the part we call the nut. However, coconut is also encased in a fibrous husk (the mesocarp and exocarp) that is often removed before being sold. What we see at a grocery store is not the whole fruit. The presence of a husk is what makes it a drupe and not a nut. A nut is a seed encased in a woody pericarp; there is no extra husk layer on a drupe. A fleshy or dry fruit with a central stony pit that contains the seed. A cherry is a drupe that we eat the flesh of. Coconuts are very large (greater than 4 in diameter) single-seeded drupes, but we eat the seed inside the central stony pit rather than the dry fruit of the drupe. The seed itself is made of a thick and bony endocarp (shell) with three germination pores (the eyes of the coconut). The endocarp is hollow and filled with fluid (the coconut water we drink) and an oily endosperm (the coconut meat we eat) lining the cavity of the seed. The entire drupe is usually somewhat to very triangular in shape, and the epicarp or outer skin of the fruit is brown (or variously colored in cultivars), thin, and smooth. The mesocarp is dry and very fibrous (the husk) and may be very thick to relatively thin. Image by James St. John, CC BY 2.0, Text added by Lyrae WillisThe coconuts most of us buy in grocery stores have had the husk removed, even though they do not stay as fresh when you do this! A cocnut with its husk intact will last about five months at room temperature, whereas a dy-and-husked coconut will only last about three weeks at room temperature. If you have ever been to Mexico or another subtropical/tropical area where coconuts are grown, you may have drank coconut water out of the immature husk of a young coconut. Its delicious! Coconuts in their whole form weigh about 3 lbs, or with the husk removed, they weigh about 1 lb 12 oz. Images by Lyrae Willis, Own Work for Tree VitalizeWild coconuts differ slightly from domesticated ones. Their fruits are elongated with a thicker husk, less endosperm, and less coconut water. They are often referred to by the Somoan term niu kafa. The thicker husk and less internal weight allow for easier ocean dispersal by making the fruits more buoyant and making it more likely for them to get tossed up and lodged into sandy beaches where they can germinate and grow. Tree habit or form is the overall shape a tree has when viewed from a distance. Being a palm and only a single species, the habit of coconut trees does not vary much. They are typically either rounded or umbrella-like, depending on how their leaves are arranged in the crown. Images by Zeeith, Own work, Public Domain, and Lyrae Willis, Own Work Combined and Text Added by Lyrae Willis for Tree VitalizeCoconut trunks are not like a normal tree. They are not made of wood like trees. Instead, it forms when the leaves mature and die, leaving behind hardened bases of their petioles (leaf stalks), creating a trunk with no bark. This is why the trunks are so thin, uniform, and have no branches. In ideal conditions, a coconut palm will grow 12 36 per year. Unlike some palms, coconuts are self-cleaning. This means that when the leaf dies, it falls off the tree and does not leave much behind other than some horizontal leaf scars on the trunk that their hardened bases formed. Notice how clean and smooth the trunks in the photos below look; they were not pruned this way. Also, note the horizontal lines on the trunks; those are the leaf scars. Some trunks are wider while others are thinner, and some are straight while others are crooked. These features can help identify the different types of coconut varieties. Tall coconuts, and some dwarf varieties, have a conspicuous bole at the base of the trunk. A bole is just a swelling located at the bottom of the trunk. The presence of a bole can also be useful in identifying different types of coconuts. Coconut trees are part of the feather palms because they have feather-like leaves. The presence of conspicuous coconuts on a palm with pinnately divided feather-like leaves is by far the easiest way to distinguish a coconut tree from any other palm. Other feather palms typically produce much smaller drupes that are more berry-like in shape and appearance. Notice the berry-like drupes of Adonidia merrillii in the photo above for the umbrella-like crown in the Tree Habit section. Most palms produce similar-sized but often very differently colored drupes. When fruit is absent, the lack of a crown shaft and the presence of fibrous, cloth-like leaf sheaths (see photos above in the Leaf Attachment section) will help differentiate it from some of the other feather palms. Fortunately, however, coconuts usually stay on the tree for many months at a time, so a mature coconut usually has some fruits on it, making it easy to identify it as coconut and not another type of feather palm. There is another palm with even larger seeds, Lodoicea maldivica, sometimes called the double coconut. However, its enormous seeds look nothing like coconuts, and the tree itself has cost-palmate rather than pinnately divided leaves. You can see the different leaf types seen in palm trees in the images below. Images by Lyrae Willis, Own Work for Tree VitalizeCoconut palms are classy trees with a very tropical vibe that make a lovely addition to any suitable landscape. Growing coconut palms is very easy if you live in the right climate, in zones 10 11; be sure you know which USDA Planting Zones you live in before purchasing a tree. The Panama Tall can even be grown in zone 9b. If you live in a colder climate, you could try growing one of the dwarf varieties in a pot on your patio and bring it indoors for winter. All coconuts trees require full sun and well-drained soil. They all also prefer consistently moist soil, so in drought-prone areas, irrigation will be required to ensure fruit production. Ensure the spot you have chosen fits those requirements to ensure your tree establishes successfully. Check out How to Pick A Tree For Your Yard for more information on choosing the right tree for the right spot. While they all prefer consistent moisture, some are somewhat drought-tolerant, while others are not at all. Be sure to read up on your chosen tree if you want one that can tolerate some dry soil. Most of the time, you should not amend the site with organic material as it could impede the palms root growth, though some varieties do like some organic matter. Some varieties are heavier feeders than others, but all will benefit from regular fertilizer 1 3 times per year as this will increase fruit production. Propagation is always done from seed. You can plant your own coconuts; they are ready to be planted if you can hear a sloshing sound when you shake them. To grow a coconut from seed, place it on its side in a well-drained seedbed or directly in a large pot and bury it with sand or mulch to 1/3 of its thickness. It will germinate best when the temperature is between 90 100 F. They can be transplanted at 6 months old into their permanent spot, or they can be grown in a large pot for a few to several years. Lethal Yellowing Disease is a phytoplasma disease that attacks over 30 species of palms, including the coconut palm. It is a bacterium that belongs to the class Mollicutes, a bacterium with no cell walls. The name for this bacterium is Candidatus Phytoplasma palmar. It cannot be cultured and is only found in the phloem of host plants. It is spread from tree to tree by insect pests such as the host plants' vascular system and then spread to the next tree they feed on. It is often spread by planthoppers like Haplaxius crudus (aka Myndus crudus), which is native to Florida, the Caribbean, Central America, and Australia. The planthoppers live in turf grasses, and the pest is sometimes found in contaminated grass seeds. When grown traditionally in sandy soils on beaches, the coconut palms were not noticeably affected. The problem arose from using coconut and date palms ornamentally, where these grasses are also grown, like at golf courses and on lawns, which caused the once less prevalent disease to spread much more rapidly. The first symptom of the disease is the premature drop of coconuts of any size. Next, their inflorescences appear with blackened tips, and most of their male flowers will be dead and black. It will not set fruit anymore after that. Then, the leaves start to yellow, starting with the oldest (lowestmost) leaves until, eventually, the entire crown yellows (see photo above). The leaves later turn brown and droop, producing a skirt of dead leaves. Eventually, the entire crown withers, leaving a bare, standing trunk as the tree dies. This entire process takes about 3 5 months. There is no cure for Lethal Yellowing Disease. The only effective remedy is prevention by planting resistant cultivars in areas that are affected by the disease. The Araceaceae family is estimated to have evolved about 100 million years ago, based on fossil evidence dated around 93 million years old. The Cocos genus evolved a little later, likely around 62 million years ago. It is uncertain where the coconut was originally native to because the seeds (the coconuts) are buoyant and capable of traveling long distances over the ocean. Modern genetic research suggests they originated between western Southeast Asia and Melanesia, based on the higher degree of genetic diversity found there. Coconuts have been cultivated for at least four thousand years. Research has shown that there are two separate origins of coconut cultivation, one in the Pacific Ocean and the other in the Indian Ocean. The word coconut comes from the Spanish and Portuguese word *coco*, which translates to head or skull in English, coming from the shape of the shell and the three indentations on the shell that somewhat resemble human facial features. Coconuts are considered the tree of life in certain Indian cultures, and Polynesians have never worn coconut shells as bras, as shown occasionally on TV. That was an attempt by prudish western civilizations to portray traditional clothing while hiding the bare breasts normally worn by the people there. The sturdy midrib of the coconut leaf is sometimes used as a broom handle and the leaf segments that are attached to it for sweeping. Coconut shells were widely used as bowls and drinking cups and still are today, even well outside the tropics in tropical-themed restaurants. They are also carved into buttons or used in other crafts and decorative items. The lower portion of the trunks is sometimes milled into lumber. As a food, the coconut is incredibly nutritious and versatile. It produces delicious, nutritious water packed with vitamins and enzymes. The meat can be eaten fresh or dried and is added to salads, curries, ceviche, rice, and countless dessert items, including pies, cookies, pastries, puddings, and more. Coconut is also used to make a delicious allergy-friendly alternative milk product. This is made by grinding the meat and mixing it with water. This is different from the water found inside the shell. Coconut oil is a nutritious edible oil that is also widely used in the hair and cosmetic industry. It also makes a wonderful addition to homemade soaps, making them lather abundantly. My own homemade soap includes 30% coconut oil. In addition to being nutritious, the coconut provides other health benefits, including promoting weight loss, anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial, and anti-parasite, promoting healthy hair and skin, enhancing digestion and improving absorption, and it lowers cholesterol, reducing the risk of heart disease. The husk, or coir, is also incredibly versatile and can be used as compost, stuffing, or in gardening as an amazing substitute for peat moss. The harvesting of peat moss is unsustainable and environmentally destructive. Peat bogs, where the peat moss is harvested from, take thousands and thousands of years to form. The plants in them grow very slowly and decompose even slower thanks to the acidic environment that slows decay. Peat bogs are already under serious pressure due to climate change and habitat loss. Strip-mining of peat bogs adds to that pressure and releases significant quantities of carbon into the atmosphere. Please consider switching to coconut coir. It is becoming more widely available. If your local nursery does not sell it yet, ask them to bring it in. Alternatively, it is widely available online at your favorite online retailers. Coconut coir can be used to lighten soils and improve water retention, just like peat moss, but better. It absorbs water more rapidly and completely than peat moss does and holds about 10% more water than the same weight of peat moss would. Peat moss is also often heavily acidic, and manufacturers often have to add lime to it to raise the pH before they sell it, and even then, it is still acidic. Coconut coir is slightly acidic to almost pH neutral, so where you want neutral or alkaline coir is a much better choice. If you are needing acidic pH, you can still use coir. Simply alter your pH by using phosphoric acid for your seedlings or cuttings or using elemental sulfur in the garden. Both are cheap and effective. If you buy a poorer quality coir, be aware that they may need to leach the salts out of it. This is super easy to do, though. Simply hydrate it in a bucket full of warm water. Once hydrated, stir it thoroughly and then drain the water off, and its ready to use! The small fragrant flowers attract numerous pollinating insects, including bees, butterflies, moths, and also certain birds. Countless tropical birds use the trees as a roosting site to rest on their voyages. The trees provide structural diversity to forested habitats and provide land-dwelling animals with temporary shelter. Now you have learned so much more about the classy coconut tree. I hope that you have learned to appreciate this amazing tree of life and all that it provides for us. Maybe now you will want to grow your own in your yard or a dwarf variety on your patio. Either way, once you do, you, too, will be as cool as the coconut! Related Articles: 11 Different Types of Linden Trees (with Photos) How to Identify Linden Trees (Leaf, Bark, Flowers & More) 8 Different Types of Baobab Trees & Their Identifying Features (With Photos) 26 Different Types of Apple Trees & Their Identifying Features (With Photos) 17 Different Types of Elm Trees & Their Identifying Features (With Photos) Login to create a quiz, word search, matching games, or worksheets. If you are not a registered user register here to login. Appearance: Cocos nucifera has a smooth single gray trunk that is ringed with old leaf scars. Mature palms become smooth with age. The trunk is a little swollen at the base and is usually slightly curved. It is topped with a crown of 25 30 pinnate, or feather-shaped leaves that can grow up to 18 feet long and 6 feet wide. Leaves are large, about 18ft long and 6ft wide, with 200 leaflets 2ft long. The life span of the leaf may be 2.5 3 years, and mature, healthy palms form a new one and drop the oldest one each month. Flowers/Fruits: When about 4-6 years of age, during spring the Coconut Palm starts producing sweet-scented yellow flowers. Flowers grow in clusters and are held by slightly branched stalks. Male and female flowers grow on the same inflorescence. They are generally protractious, and male flowers release pollen before females become receptive. Flowers are followed by fruits called coconuts. Coconut is one of the most recognizable and most useful fruits in the world. They range in color from green to yellow, or bronze-gold, to brown depending on maturity and variety. Fruits are oval, 3-angled, 12 inches long, and 10 inches wide, with a single seed inside. There is a nut inside of the fruit, filled with a layer of white coconut meat and sweet watery milk. Coconut Palm seeds are one of the largest of any plant. After maturing, it takes a full year for the coconut to ripen. Fruits start developing when the plant is around 6-10 years old. Coconut Palm bears fruits all year long with an annual production of around 50-200 coconuts per palm tree, depending on growing conditions and palm variety. Growth Rate: Moderate. In its native habitat the Coconut Palm grows up to 100 ft, but usually is around 20-30 ft tall and 5-10 ft wide in cultivation. Outdoor/Indoor Use: Both. Cold Tolerance: Coconut Palm likes a warm climate and cannot tolerate temperatures below 20F without getting injured. It is great for growing in USDA Zones 9a (20 to 25 F) to 11 (above 40 F). Light Req: Partial shade to full sun. Water Req: It grows best in moist well-drained soil but can tolerate drought. The average temperature should be around 72F with a lot of rainfall. Maintenance: Easy. In addition to its attractive look, this unique palm offers low to moderate maintenance. To prevent nutritional deficiency, apply good quality palm fertilizer that has a continuous release formula twice a year during the growing season. Insects and Diseases: Lethal yellowing is the most dangerous disease for Coconut palms, which is caused by a tiny organism called phytoplasma. Early indications are premature dropping of coconuts and blackening of flower stalks. You will also notice leaves turning yellow, starting with the lower ones and moving to the crown. Coconut Palm usually doesn't live more than 6 months after showing the first evidence of the disease. This Palm might experience difficulties with a few including spider mites, scale, palm aphids, and mealybugs. Propagation: Propagated by seeds. It takes many months for germination to take place. The recommended temperature for faster germination is around 90-100F. When Coconut seed germinates it breaks through one of the three germinating holes that you can see on one side of the fruit. Wait til the plant is 6 months old before transplanting it to the pot or into the yard. You can plant this palm any time during the year, but for the best result, I recommend doing it during warm rainy summer months. Since Coconut Palms like sandy soil add 40% sand to the mix and if you transplant it in the pot add some rocks to the bottom for better drainage. Water right away after planting and apply mulch to help retain soil moisture and protect from weed growth. Keep the soil lightly moist. Check out this blog20 Facts About Coconut Palm Trees for even more info! Coconut Palm Tree Interesting Facts Coconut palm trees, also known as "the tree of life," have a multitude of benefits and uses, from nutrition to crafting materials. The tree's fruit, the coconut, is highly nutritious and rich in fiber, vitamins, and minerals. Hydration: Coconut water is a great natural hydration aid due to its high electrolyte content.MCTS: Coconut oil is rich in Medium Chain Triglycerides (MCTs), which are healthy fats.Fiber: Coconuts provide a good amount of dietary fiber.Culinary Uses: Coconut milk and cream are used widely in cooking and baking.Skin Care: The oil and milk from coconuts are used in a variety of skincare and hair care products.Crafting: The shells can be used for crafting items like bowls or ornaments.Building Material: The wood is also used for furniture making.Rope Making: The tree's husk is used to make ropes.Fuel: The husk and shells can be used as an energy source. Coconut fruit itself boasts several unique features: Size: Coconuts are the largest seeds in the plant kingdom.Three Layers: A coconut has three layers – the exocarp (outer layer), mesocarp (fleshy middle layer), and endocarp (hard, woody layer that surrounds the seed).Floating Ability: Coconuts can float because of their thick, buoyant husk.Slow to Decompose: Coconuts are slow to decompose, giving the seedling plenty of time to sprout.Long Lifespan: A coconut tree can live and produce fruit for up to 80-100 years under optimal conditions. Coconut Palm Tree Fruit Please note that this list only includes 15 points. For a more comprehensive list, further research can provide additional insights into the benefits and facts of the coconut palm tree and its fruit. Further research into the coconut palm tree reveals even more fascinating facts. For instance, did you know that the coconut palm tree is known as the "Tree of Life" in many cultures due to its versatility and the numerous benefits it offers? Besides, its resilience to salinity allows it to thrive along the seashores. Coconut water was also reportedly used as an intravenous hydration fluid during World War II when the regular IV solution was in short supply. The coconut palm tree's roots are not only beneficial for preventing soil erosion but also have medicinal properties. Lastly, the coconut tree's flowers can be tapped to produce a sweet sap that is fermented to become palm wine, thus making it an integral part of cultural festivities in many societies. Coconut tree Facts Coconut tree is a plant that belongs to the family Araceaceae. There are over 150 species of coconuts that can be found in 80 different countries throughout the world. Coconut tree grows only in the tropical climate. This plant live on the sandy soil, requires a lot of sunlight and regular rainfalls. Coconut tree does not tolerate low temperatures and low percent of humidity. Cultivated plants are prone to insect attacks which can decrease production of fruit worth of hundreds of million dollars. Coconut is important part of human diet because it contains valuable vitamins and minerals. Other than that, coconuts are used in the production of various wooden items, in the construction industry, in the manufacture of beauty products and as a fuel. Coconut trees can be dwarf and tall. Dwarf coconut trees can reach 20 to 60 feet in height, while tall coconut trees grow to the height of 98 feet. Coconut tree has 13 to 20 inches long pinnate leaves. Leaflets have lanceolate shape. They can reach 24 to 35 inches in length. Coconut tree is attached to the ground via strong fibrous root system. Coconut tree develops male and female flowers. They mature at different time to avoid self-pollination. Two types of flowers can be distinguished by size: female flowers are larger. Fruit of a coconut tree is botanically known as drupe. Fruit becomes fully ripe after one year. Under optimal weather conditions, coconut tree can produce 75 fruits per year, but that happens extremely rare. More often, coconut tree produces 30 fruits each year. Ripe coconut has 3.2 pounds of weight. White, edible flesh of coconut can be consumed raw or dried. Dry version of coconut flesh is called "copra". Production of one ton of copra requires 6000 coconuts. Each year, 61 million tons of coconuts are produced and distributed throughout the world. In certain parts of the world, people use trained monkeys to collect coconuts instead of them. Coconut is very popular and often consumed fruit. Other than the flesh, coconut water, milk and oil can be used in the preparation of various healthy dishes. Coconut oil has wide application in cosmetic industry. Coconut oil is part of various lotions because it smells nice and increases the moisture of the skin. Sap extracted from the closed flower is used for the production of alcoholic beverage called "coconut vodka". Wooden parts of coconuts are used in the manufacture of furniture, decorative objects, drums, containers and even cans. All parts of the coconuts can be exploited, even their hard shells. Husk and shell are discarded as waste after extraction of the fruit. They are used as fuel and source of charcoal. Coconut oil is used as a substitute for diesel fuel. Coconuts can survive up to 100 years in the wild. Related Links: Facts Plants Facts Animals Facts Coconut tree Facts

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