

Stonegate Gardens

339 South Great R

Lincoln, MA, 01773

phone: 781-259-8884

lynne@stonegategardens.com

www.stonegategardens.com

Red Star Grass Palm (tree form)



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Cordyline australis 'Red Star (tree form)'

Height: 25 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Cabbage Palm, Grass Tree, Dracaena Palm

Description:

An interesting palm like tree that will branch with age to produce several heads; produces large panicles of sweet smelling white blooms; may be grown in zone 8b with some protection; a wonderful addition to a tropical themed garden

Ornamental Features

Red Star Grass Palm (tree form) features dainty panicles of fragrant white round flowers with chartreuse eyes along the branches from mid to late spring. Its attractive sword-like leaves remain burgundy in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Red Star Grass Palm (tree form) is an annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Red Star Grass Palm (tree form) is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Red Star Grass Palm (tree form) will grow to be about 25 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.



Red Star Grass Palm (tree form)
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Red Star Grass Palm (tree form) is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.