

Stonegate Gardens

Mountain Cabbage Tree

339 South Great R

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Mountain Cabbage Tree

Cordyline indivisia

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Mountain Palm, Blue dracaena, Toi

Description:

An interesting palm like tree that will form a small single trunk over time; features very large, glossy, strap-shaped leaves; panicles of small, pale green to maroon flowers in late spring; container plants rarely flower; an excellent tropical look

Ornamental Features

Mountain Cabbage Tree features dainty panicles of fragrant light green round flowers with burgundy overtones and chartreuse eyes hanging below the branches from late spring to early summer. Its attractive large glossy sword-like leaves remain bluish-green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Mountain Cabbage Tree is an annual with a strong central leader and 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.

Mountain Cabbage Tree is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Mountain Cabbage Tree will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 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.



Mountain Cabbage Tree
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. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. 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 species is not originally from North America.

Mountain Cabbage Tree 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.