

Cordyline - Growing Guide

Growing Cordyline Australis

Commonly known as 'Cabbage Palm' or 'Dracaena'

This hardy New Zealand native is so widely grown in Cornwall that it has become known and sold to tourists in shops and garages as the 'Cornish Palm'. Visitors to Dracaena Avenue in Falmouth or to the public parks in Penzance will have been amazed at the size of these huge, often multi-stemmed, trees of up to 30 or so feet in height branching in maturity with flower heads and seed heads 4-6ft long. Longer and larger in many instances than the leaf crowns from which they occur. Cabbage palms will easily tolerate the worst salt laden westerly gales which a West Country winter can throw at them and will readily tolerate -5°C or even -10°C for short periods especially when they have started to develop a woody trunk after five or so years.



Cordyline australis



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There are now many forms and varieties of *C. australis* which are almost as hardy. *C. australis* 'Albertii' has wonderful green cream and white variegations in its leaves. *C. australis* 'Purpurea' is smaller growing with brown leaves flushed purple. There are also newer forms with pink margined leaves ('Southern Splendour') and red central veining ('Sundance'). These are definitely more tender and untried even in Cornwall. It may therefore be best to keep them in the greenhouse until more established at least in colder counties.



Cordyline australis
'Purpurea'



Cordyline australis
'Purpurea'



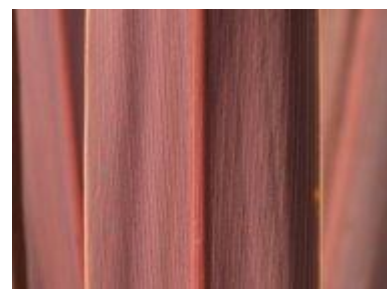
Cordyline australis
'Purpurea'



Cordyline australis
'Purpurea'



Cordyline australis
'Purpurea'



Cordyline australis 'Claret'



Cordyline australis 'Salsa'



Cordyline australis
'Southern Splendour'

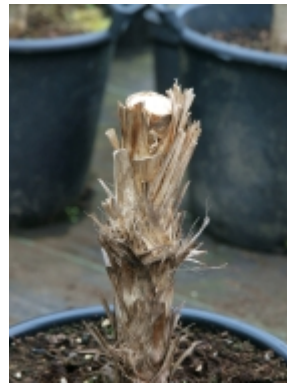


Cordyline australis
'Albertii'



Cordyline australis
'Sundance'

If your Cordyline (Cabbage Palm) has suffered in the Winter and its crown appears brown and dead (even if there are still green leaves below) it will soon die. To save it you need to take drastic action and cut off the top. New vigorous shoots will appear from the base of the plants or perhaps up the stem as well.



View this video on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/c8AXnNJldXg>

Pruning Cordyline Australis

View this video on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/5q47Y7v0n68>

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