

Livistona australis

COMMON NAMES

cabbage tree palm

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Monocotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream

HABITAT

Well naturalised on Kawau Island, otherwise mainly confined to the vicinity of plant specimens in urban areas. This is because the fruits are of sufficient size that most birds cannot consume them. However, kererū (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) can and do distribute fruit. This is possibly how it has become so well established on Kawau Island.

GENUS

Livistona

FAMILY

Areaceae

AUTHORITY

Livistona australis (R.Br.) Mart.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1980

ORIGIN

Australia and scattered in tropics.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Cold sensitive

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Disposal Method

Hand pull or dig out seedlings (watchout for the spines), destroy fruiting adults. Plant only males, or remove fruiting panicles if the trees are desired.

Preferred Control

Its obvious—better not to plant it and use another palm species that does not set viable seed instead.



Insertion of fronds into trunk. Auckland. May 2007. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Insertion of frond into trunk. Auckland. May 2007. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Long-lived tree. Reproduces exclusively by seed, which is a hard nut enclosed by a fleshy fruit. Fruit dispersed by birds and gravity.

ETYMOLOGY

australis: Southern

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/livistona-australis/>

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