

Trachycarpus fortunei

COMMON NAMES

Chinese windmill palm

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Monocotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Medium sized palm with straight trunk, unbranched, from 4–12 m tall.

Trunk covered with dark brown fibrous remains of petiole bases. **Leaves** fan-shaped, 75–100 cm, divided into numerous narrow leaflets. Petioles about 1 m long with stout sharp marginal teeth. **Flowers** numerous, yellow. **Fruit** a small berry about 10 mm, yellow at first, later deep blue-black.

SIMILAR TAXA

Three other *Trachycarpus* species are also cultivated in New Zealand. *T. martianus* has fibrous leaf scars restricted to just below leaves; *T. takil* has fibres closely appressed to the trunk; *T. wagnerianus* has smaller leaves (to 45 cm), fibres closely attached to trunk and white flowers.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Disturbed bush and shrubland margins, river and stream edges, wetlands.

GENUS

Trachycarpus

FAMILY

Areaceae

AUTHORITY

Trachycarpus fortunei (Hook.) H.Wendl.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November, December, January

FRUITING

March

YEAR NATURALISED

1959

ORIGIN

China



Trachycarpus fortunei. Photographer: Richard Hursthouse, Licence: CC BY.



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REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Moderately cold and drought tolerant once established.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Invasive and hard to control, best not to plant it. Try another palm species that does not set viable seed.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Prolific seed is produced which is dispersed by birds, people and gravity.

NVS CODE

TRAFOR

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/trachycarpus-fortunei/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026