



## **Palm Care Manual**

Congratulations on your new palm tree! With the right care, your palm will thrive and enhance your outdoor space. This manual provides essential guidelines to help you nurture your palm tree successfully.

If your palm has not been installed by Canary Island Palm Sales, you are not eligible for our palm warranty and guarantee as we have had no control over the handling or planting of the palm. If you believe the palm arrived damaged, please contact the Canary Island Palm Sales team immediately to discuss and take photographs and videos to document your concerns.

Please refer to the Terms and Warranty document on our website.

### **1. Choosing the Right Location**

- **Light:** Our palms tolerate full sun and have grown in the Tweed Shire in Northern NSW.
- **Space:** Ensure adequate space for growth. Consider the mature size of your palm. The roots of Canary Island Date Palms are not intrusive but you do need to allow sufficient room to grow. Also consider buildings and overhead services when choosing a location.
- **Locations:** We do not recommend planting Canary Island Date Palms on rooftops due to the high risk of damage from wind.

### **2. Planting**

- **Soil:** Use well-draining soil, preferably a mix of rich garden soil and washed river sand. Do not reuse old soil from the hole.
- **Planter boxes:** Planter boxes must have drainage and must be 20-30cm larger in diameter than the root ball.
- **Planting Depth:** Plant your palm so that the top edge of the root ball is planted above the soil surface. Avoid burying the rootball. Do not mound or layer soil on top of the rootball or up to and around the trunk. Soil can be mounded around the rootball to create a moat for watering.
- **Cable ties and ropes:** Cable ties should be cut while the palm is still laying down as they are difficult to remove once installed. The rope holding up the fronds can be left tied up for up to 4 weeks. If you are experiencing windy conditions, we recommend leaving the fronds tied up for a month to reduce stress on the palm during its settling in period.

### 3. Watering

- **Frequency:** Water daily after installation, however this may vary based on rain.
- **Seasol Treatment:** Every 3<sup>rd</sup> day after installation, mix 50mL of Seasol in 9Litres of water and pour over rootball. This will help establish new root growth. If you are applying the Seasol, you may not need to water on this day. Check the moisture in the soil and water accordingly.
- **Method:** Water deeply to ensure moisture reaches the roots, but avoid waterlogging.

### 4. Fertilizing and mulching

- **Schedule:** Do not fertilise for 12 weeks after installation to avoid burning fragile new roots. Fertilize every 6-8 weeks during the growing season (spring and summer) with a slow-release, balanced fertilizer.
- **Type:** Use a fertilizer formulated for palms, which contains necessary micronutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.
- **Mulch:** Mulch using Sugar Cane Mulch to protect the roots from sun exposure and help retain moisture in the soil.

### 5. Pruning

- **When:** Remove dead or yellowing fronds as needed. Prune during the growing season for best results.
- **Method:** Use clean, sharp pruning shears to avoid damaging the tree.
- **Professional Trimming Services** will give you the best advice and results to keep a well groomed and healthy palm.
- **Warning:** Canary Island Date Palms have extremely sharp thorns that can cause infection if they penetrate the skin. Please do not attempt to pick up fronds without appropriate protective gloves. Seek medical attention for any thorn tips that have become lodged in skin.

### 6. Pest Control

- **Palm Borer:** Palm borers are pests that infiltrate palm trees, tunnelling deep into their trunks. This intrusion interferes with the palm's essential functions, and their presence often remains hidden until significant damage becomes visible, such as drooping fronds, holes in the bark, and compromised structural integrity. If not managed promptly, these pests can inflict lasting harm on these magnificent palms. Prompt treatment for palm borers is essential to protect against their destructive impact.
- **Prevention:** Prevention is key to keeping borer out of your palm.
- **Treatment:** Use insecticides specifically formulated and labelled for palm borer treatment. Apply them cautiously and precisely as per the recommended guidelines. We would recommend treating twice a year for maintenance but if you have active borer you should seek professional advice and follow a treatment plan to eradicate and prevent further destruction from new growth.

## **7. Is my palm ok?**

To determine if your transplanted palm tree has settled into its new location after 6-8 weeks, you can look for the following signs:

### **1. Leaf Condition:**

- **Green Leaves:** Healthy palm trees should have green, pliable leaves. If the leaves are green and not wilted, that's a good sign.

- **Browning or Wilting:** If the leaves are turning brown or wilting, it may indicate stress or that the tree is not thriving.

### **2. New Growth:**

- Check for new fronds (leaves) emerging from the centre of the tree. New growth is a strong indicator that the tree is alive and adapting to its new location.

### **3. Trunk Health:**

- Inspect the trunk for any signs of rot or damage. A healthy trunk should feel firm and not soft or mushy.

### **4. Root Health:**

- If possible, gently dig around the base of the tree to check the root system. Healthy roots should be firm and white to light tan. Dark, mushy roots indicate rot.

### **5. Watering:**

- Ensure that the tree is getting adequate water. Overwatering or underwatering can stress the tree. The soil should be moist but not soggy.

### **6. Pest Presence:**

- Look for any signs of pests or disease, such as holes in the leaves or webs. Pests can stress the tree and affect its health.

## **8. General Tips**

- **Observe:** Keep an eye on your palm for signs of distress, such as yellowing fronds or stunted growth.
- **Adjust Care:** Be ready to adjust watering and fertilization based on seasonal changes and growth patterns.

## **Conclusion**

By following these care guidelines, your palm tree will flourish, bringing beauty and tranquility to your space. If you notice any concerning signs, please reach out to the team at Canary Island Palm Sales for specific advice. Enjoy your new palm!