

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Fishtail palm: unusual leaf fans for bright rooms

Caryota mitis surprises with leaflets whose frayed outlines recall fish fins. The multi-stemmed palm needs space, warmth and an attentively supplied root ball.



AI-created scene based on the original shop image. Size reference: 21 cm pot · about 110–120 cm. Decoration not included. Not a product photograph to scale.

Grow with knowledge.

A collection for observation and reference. Detailed explanations to help you make care decisions suited to your plant and its position.

Issue September 2026

PLANT PORTRAIT

Caryota mitis

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Botanical classification	Caryota mitis
Family	Arecaceae
Origin	Southeast Asia
Delivery size	21 cm pot · about 110–120 cm
Growth and special feature	Clump-forming palm with twice-pinnate leaves and fishtail-shaped leaflets

Care at a glance

Observe, check and adapt care to the position and season. This table provides guidance for everyday practice.

Topic	What to do	Why it helps
Position	Bright, warm and without suddenly strong midday sun.	Broad leaflets need space and gentle acclimatisation.
Water	Let the surface dry slightly and keep the root ball lightly moist inside.	Do not allow complete drying; remove remaining water.
Compost	Loose humus-rich mix with stable structure and drainage.	Good drainage prevents a persistently wet centre.
Nutrients	Feed weakly during growth according to product instructions.	Reduce accordingly when winter activity is low.
Summer position	Possible warm and wind-sheltered outdoors after acclimatisation.	Bring it indoors before cold nights.
Leaf care	Remove only entirely dead fronds at their base.	Preserve green fans and young growth.
Repotting	Provide a little more room gently when well rooted.	Protect the root ball and choose a stable pot.
Checking	Inspect undersides for webbing and scale insects.	Also compare brown tips with water balance and position.

Knowledge that grows

A truly recognisable leaf shape

Fishtail palm is not easily confused with an ordinary feather palm. Its twice-pinnate leaves carry broadly flaring, irregularly toothed leaflets. They resemble cut-off fish fins and give *Caryota mitis* its common name. The species comes from Southeast Asia and belongs to the palm family. It grows with several stems and can form new shoots at its base. Over time this creates a denser clump rather than a single unbranched indoor trunk.

A young palm that needs room

The offer describes a 21 cm pot and about 110–120 cm overall height. In this size class the palm stands well on the floor, for example beside a bright seating area. Leave enough space at the sides for spreading leaves. The scene does not show a ten-metre tropical palm but follows the offered form. Later the plant can become considerably wider. Measure free crown space too, not just the pot's footprint.

A bright position with protected leaves

Indoors, choose a bright position without suddenly strong midday sun. The shop description allows a summer stay outside after gradual acclimatisation; also consider wind protection and warm nights. A palm leaf constantly rubbing against a wall or door edge may be damaged. Choose a calm position with gentle airflow. Before bringing it in during autumn, inspect undersides and leaf bases closely so possible pests do not come indoors unnoticed.

Even supply without a pool of standing water

The offer emphasises that the root ball should not dry out during growth. At the same time the palm needs a well-drained root space. In practice, let the surface dry slightly while the centre remains slightly moist. Then water slowly across the compost and remove remaining water from the decorative pot. This avoids both drought stress and persistent wetness. Account for lower winter consumption: an unchanged summer watering schedule can now leave the root ball wet for a long time.

Preserve roots and do not trim fronds

Use a loose, humus-rich potting mix with a stable structure. When well rooted, gently move it into a slightly larger stable container without unnecessarily tearing apart the existing root ball. Feed weakly during visible growth according to product instructions. Cutting a palm leaf's tip does not make it smaller and more attractive. Remove only entirely dead leaves carefully at their base, protecting young growth in the middle of each stem.

Undersides often reveal more

Spider mites and scale insects can become a problem indoors. Regularly look beneath leaflets and into leaf bases, particularly with dry heating air. Brown tips alone do not prove infestation; water balance, salt build-up and position are also part of checking. Flowers and fruits are possible on older plants but are not a guaranteed delivery feature. Fruits may be strongly irritating. They must neither be eaten nor crushed without protection and belong out of reach of children or pets.

Pictures and details

Images and descriptions from this portrait. Decorative items are not included in the offer.



Original shop image: fishtail palm. 21 cm pot · about 110–120 cm.
Natural variation is possible.

Good to know

Why do leaf edges look frayed?

The irregular fishtail shape is part of the natural leaflet structure and not automatically damage.

Can I simply shorten fronds that are too broad?

Green fronds should not be trimmed to correct their shape. It is better to plan enough lateral space from the start.

How large is the offered palm?

About 110–120 cm overall in a 21 cm pot. This is a young plant that will continue growing.

Are any fruits edible?

No. They can be strongly irritating and must not be eaten or crushed without protection.

The matching offer

[View plant in the shop](#)

Link to the offer in German. Check the shop for the current price, availability and delivery contents.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer (in German)