

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Rhapis excelsa: dark fans and quiet growth

Rhapis excelsa combines bamboo-like stems with strongly pleated leaf fans. It suits bright or partially shaded interiors and becomes a steady companion with an even water supply.



AI-created scene based on the original shop photo. Size reference: 21 cm pot · 80–100 cm. Decoration is not included; this is 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

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Botanical classification	Rhapis excelsa
Family	Arecaceae
Origin	Southern China and Vietnam
Delivery size	21 cm pot · 80–100 cm
Growth and distinctive feature	Clump-forming fan palm with slender stems wrapped in fibres

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
Light	Bright to partial shade, without hot midday sun.	Even shade-tolerant palms need useful daylight.
Water	Keep slightly moist, allowing the surface to dry a little.	Moisten evenly throughout and drain leftover water.
Compost	Use a humus-rich, well-drained mix.	Do not let the root zone stay compacted or waterlogged.
Feeding	During growth, feed moderately according to product instructions.	Reduce accordingly with low activity.
Temperature	A cool to warm interior; the shop recommends about 18–20 °C.	Avoid persistent cold draughts.
Summer and winter	Sheltered shade outdoors in summer; frost-free in winter.	Bring indoors before critically cold nights.
Leaves	Let young fans unfold themselves and remove only dead foliage.	Protect each stem's growing point.
Monitoring	Look at undersides and narrow gaps between stems.	Pests hide easily in the dense clump.

Knowledge that grows

Small fans above fibrous stems

Rhapis excelsa belongs to the palm family and grows several slender stems from underground stem areas. Brown fibres wrap older stem sections. Its leaves are divided into fans; the individual segments appear strongly pleated and often end bluntly or with irregular divisions. The trade name bamboo palm describes only the stems' appearance. *Rhapis excelsa* is not bamboo. Foliage and growth are the focus indoors, where flowers are rare and inconspicuous.

A dense companion without enormous leaf surfaces

The selected offer states 80–100 cm total height in a 21 cm pot. The dense crown can enliven a bright entrance or quiet corner. Unlike a large-leaved *strelitzia*, the greenery is distributed across many smaller fans. Still allow space for lateral leaves. A bench provides an understandable size reference in the scene. Natural form remains individual, and a much larger *rhapis* later should not be confused with its current delivery height.

Combining indirect light with a suitable room

A bright to partially shaded position without hot midday sun suits it well. The species tolerates less light than some other palms, but that does not automatically make a windowless room suitable. The shop recommends around 18–20 °C as a comfortable range. A sheltered, shady summer position is possible after slow acclimatisation. Bring it indoors before cool nights. Although *rhapis* may tolerate brief draughts relatively well, it should not stand permanently in a cold airflow from a doorway.

Checking in summer and reassessing in winter

Keep the root ball evenly slightly moist and let the surface dry a little. Then water slowly as needed and allow drainage. Densely rooted palm pots can be damp around the outside yet unevenly supplied inside, so careful watering is useful. Excess does not remain in the outer pot. Winter consumption is usually lower. Frequency follows position and root ball, not season alone. Avoid both complete drying and constantly wet roots.

Respecting palm structure

A humus-rich, well-drained mix suits container growing. Repot when clearly well rooted, disturbing roots as little as possible. Feed moderately during growth according to product instructions. Remove fully dead fronds but do not cut into the growing point of a healthy stem. Young leaf fans should open by themselves. Dividing strong clumps is possible in principle, but involves root disturbance and should not be casually performed on a newly delivered or already weakened plant.

Noticing fine changes in dense foliage

Regularly check fan undersides and gaps between stems for scale insects, mealybugs and spider mites. A soft, damp cloth can remove dust from accessible leaf segments. Brown tips call for assessing moisture, air and roots; they do not clearly identify a particular cause. Dead tissue will not turn green again. A well-cared-for *rhapis* is attractive through its quiet structure and varied green tones. Health promises about indoor air are neither necessary nor inferable from the individual houseplant.

Pictures and details

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



Original shop photo: Rhaps excelsa. 21 cm pot · 80–100 cm.
Natural variation is possible.



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Good to know

Is bamboo palm a bamboo?

No. The name refers to the slender stems; *Rhapis excelsa* is a fan palm.

Can it manage with little light?

It tolerates partial shade quite well. A completely dark room still does not provide a sufficient foundation.

May I shorten the fans to keep it narrow?

Preserve healthy leaf fans. Choose a sufficiently wide position and remove only dead foliage.

How large is the delivery form?

Approximately 80-100 cm total height in a 21 cm pot, with natural variation in fan and stem count.

The matching offer

[Plant in the shop](#)

The linked shop is in German. Product details, availability and delivery information are provided in that shop.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer (in German)