

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Chinese windmill palm: folded fans and a sheltered garden place

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AI-created garden scene based on the original shop image. One young palm matching delivery stage. Size reference: 1 plant · 21 cm pot · about 90–100 cm total height including pot. Not a scale product photograph; surroundings and accessories not included.

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 October 2026

PLANT PORTRAIT

Trachycarpus fortunei

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Botanical name	Trachycarpus fortunei
Delivery size	1 plant · 21 cm pot · about 90–100 cm total height including pot
Growth	Perennial evergreen palm with a fibre-covered trunk and deeply divided fan leaves
Expected height	Several metres over decades; more than 12 m possible in favourable positions. Containers and climate limit actual development
Flowering season	Summer on sufficiently developed plants; young supplied plants need not flower yet
Flower colour	Small pale yellow to greenish flowers in branching clusters
Planting time	Preferably spring in frost-free workable soil; planting out only with suitable climate and winter plan
Spacing	About 2–3 m for specimen plants as a guide from later crown width; plan paths, walls and movable containers

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	Choose sun or light partial shade in a sheltered outdoor position.	The green crown needs light; cold wind may damage segments.
Space	Plan later crown width and access to the container.	Young delivery height does not limit perennial development.
Soil	Use structurally stable fertile soil with free drainage.	Roots need moisture and air together.
Planting	Prefer spring and retain the previous trunk-base level.	Longer establishment helps before the first cold season.
Water	Check the rootball and water thoroughly when dry.	Established drought tolerance does not universally apply to small delivery balls.
Fertiliser	Supply during growth according to need and label.	Limited pots and good garden soil have different reserves.
Pruning	Selectively remove completely dead outer leaves.	Do not injure the living crown centre.
Winter	Keep young containers bright, cool and frost-free when the frost plan is uncertain.	Container roots are more exposed to cold than protected garden soil.
Checks	Check moisture and drainage even in winter on frost-free days.	Evergreen leaves continue losing water.

Knowledge that grows

A fan consists of many folds

The green leaves open into numerous narrow lengthwise-folded segments. Some tips hang slightly while stalks hold fans away from the trunk. Brown fibres belong to old leaf bases and give the plant its familiar name.

Trachycarpus fortunei is a palm in Arecaceae from Asian mountain regions. It usually forms one trunk. A young container initially shows a small crown; later garden character develops with further leaf generations and increasing trunk height.

Delivery height includes the pot

The linked offer describes one plant in a 21 cm pot at about 90–100 cm total height including container. The original shows a short fibrous trunk and several green fans, not a garden palm several metres tall. In favourable conditions the species can become a tall tree over decades, with possible heights beyond 12 m. Climate and containers substantially influence this path. Lift it from packaging by the pot and remove material without pulling leaf stalks. Check rootball moisture and stability before positioning.

Wind shelter preserves leaf form

Sun or light partial shade suits a protected outdoor place. Strong wind can tear folded segments; this does not automatically destroy viability but makes the crown look more tousled. Do not choose an exposed balcony corner only for its lovely light. Beside a terrace, the later crown needs lateral room. About 2–3 m spacing is a specimen guide based on developed crown width, not a fixed hedge rule. Also leave room to move the container and reach it when winter protection is needed.

Roots need water and drainage

Structurally stable fertile soil with good drainage is the foundation. Containers need free drainage openings and secure standing; the delivery pot does not define permanent size. Repot a strongly rooted ball into a suitably larger container without burying the trunk base deeper. Planting out is possible in mild regions but needs realistic assessment of soil, local frost and protection options. Spring provides a long establishment phase before the next winter. Simply adding some gravel to a planting hole does not give a small rootball reliable drainage in heavy waterlogged garden soil.

Drought tolerance does not replace provision

Check the root zone in summer and water thoroughly when soil dries. Excess should drain away. An established plant can endure dry phases better than a newly delivered container palm; this does not justify drying a small pot for extended periods. Sun and wind change demand. Suitable fertiliser according to its label may help during growth, especially in limited container volume. Do not feed a completely dry rootball or automatically interpret yellow leaves as nutrient deficiency. First inspect moisture, drainage and the rest of the crown.

Leave the crown centre untouched

Regular shaping cuts are unnecessary. Only selectively remove completely dead outer leaves with clean tools, without injuring the trunk or living crown centre. The central growing spear is essential for future development. Untidy fibre covering does not need a smoothly shaved trunk. Older plants may bear branching yellowish flower clusters in summer. Female plants may produce fruits after suitable pollination; sex, flowers or current fruit set are not guaranteed in the young offer. Care for an ornamental palm, not a harvest promise.

Assess cold by location and plant size

Windmill palm is among more cold-tolerant palms but still needs protection in hard frosts. A small container freezes differently from rooted garden soil. A bright cool frost-free shelter is a reasonable plan for a young container plant when outside conditions are uncertain. Outdoors, root protection, free drainage and shelter from cold drying wind must fit together; a thin cover guarantees no frost-free rootball. Check moisture on frost-free days and water to demand. Permanently dark storage is as unsuitable for evergreen foliage as a blanket promise to withstand every German winter without help.

Pictures and details

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



Unchanged clean original shop view. Young palm in a black nursery pot, not yet a mature garden crown. Delivery size reference: 1 plant · 21 cm pot · about 90–100 cm total height including pot.



AI-created leaf detail based on the original shop image. Enlarged leaf view, not a larger delivery plant. Surroundings not included.

Good to know

Is a windmill palm a coconut palm?

No. *Trachycarpus fortunei* has folded fan leaves and belongs to a different palm genus from coconut palm.

Does it remain about a metre tall?

No. 90–100 cm describes delivery including 21 cm pot. Over decades several metres and more than 12 m in favourable places are possible.

Does a hardy palm need no protection?

That conclusion goes too far. Hard frost, cold wind and especially a small container need a protection plan suitable for the site.

Why do leaf segments tear?

Strong wind can damage fans. Check the site and distinguish mechanical damage from new discolouration or wilting.

Can I cut off the crown to limit height?

No. Do not injure the living crown centre. Only selectively remove completely dead outer leaves.

Must a young palm already flower?

No. Flowers and possible fruits belong to later development of sufficiently large plants and are not guaranteed for young delivery.

The matching offer

[View plant in the shop](#)

Check the shop for the current price, availability and offer contents.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer