



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

September 2010

FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Pinanga disticha*



ABOVE: *Pinanga disticha* growing in the Beck garden.

BELOW: *Pinanga disticha* growing in Flecker Botanical Garden in Cairns in Tropical North Queensland, Australia

(Photos by Charlie Beck)



FRONT COVER: *Pinanga disticha* growing in the Beck garden.

(Photo by Charlie Beck)

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Opinions expressed and products or recommendations published in this newsletter may not be the opinions or recommendations of the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society or its board of directors.

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FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Pinanga disticha*

by Charlie Beck

Pinanga disticha is a charming little palm native to peninsular Thailand and Malaysia and also found in Singapore and Sumatra. Henderson describes it as a loose clumper but our specimen grows as a tight clumper. In nature, this palm grows from sea level up to an elevation of 4,000 feet. The stems measure .25 inches in diameter and are reported to grow four feet tall. The leaves are mottled and have widely divided segments or are bifid. The stems are dark brown.

Our specimen was purchased in a four inch pot. It grew steadily into a two gallon container. We planted it in the garden last summer and it continued to grow without any transplant shock. It seems well adapted to our sandy soil but I did mulch heavily around this palm. I

was surprised to see this *Pinanga* was unfazed by our record cold winter. No leaf burn was evident. Since this palm grows in habitat from steamy sea level to cool, high altitudes, this palm handles our hot humid summers and our occasional cold winters.

I am fond of this palm for its widely segmented, mottled leaves and its tight clumping habit. I compare it to *Chamaedorea brachypoda* or *C. stolonifera* (see photos on page 12). *P. disticha* stems seem more rigid than *C. brachypoda* and so far have not shown a tendency to spread over large areas like *C. brachypoda* and *C. stolonifera*. From all indications, *P. disticha* would also be a good candidate for outdoor pot culture.

**GROWING CONDITIONS IN OUR GARDEN
FOR *Pinanga disticha***

Location	4 miles from ocean in suburban Lantana
Soil	Sand over a layer of hardpan (pineland flatwood habitat)
Irrigation	¾ inch applied twice a week
Fertilization	3 times a year with Palm special analysis
Light	Deep shade
Micronutrient Deficiencies	None observed
Insect Damage	None observed
Hurricane Resistance	Excellent (Assumed)

*Please share your garden experiences.
Submit your stories and photos to beck4212@aol.com*

**ANNUAL MEMBER PICNIC
AND
MOST SPECTACULAR AUCTION
OF THE YEAR
SEPTEMBER 4, 2010
9:00 A.M. TO ??
AT**

Ruth Sallenbach's fabulous garden

6285 South Military Trail
Lake Worth
(On the west side of Military Trail
between Lantana and Hypoluxo Roads)

**Please bring a covered dish or dessert!
AND
your own chair**

Donated plants (of any kind) for
the auction are most welcome.



Come join us for the fun!

**New IFAS Landscape Planting Recommendation
by Charlie Beck**

Common horticultural recommendations have always encouraged us not to fertilize palms when planting containerized palms in the ground. Of course, I never followed this recommendation. I have always added Nutricote or an organic fertilizer to the planting hole. I was surprised to see that IFAS now encourages the practice of fertilizing with a high nitrogen fertilizer at the time of planting. The following is an excerpt from an IFAS publication by Tim Broschat titled *Transplanting Palms in the Landscape*. (For more on this topic, see EDIS Publication CIR1047 at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP001>.)

Fertilization of palms transplanted from containers is critical to successful establishment. Palms growing in Florida landscapes grow best with a relatively low nitrogen (N) content fertilizer (e.g., 8-2-12 -4 Mg). (For more on this topic, see EDIS Publication ENH1009, *Fertilization of Field-grown and Landscape Palms in Florida*, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP261>.) By contrast, palms growing in containers have very high N requirement due to microbial demands for N as microbes degrade pine bark and other organic components in the potting soil. (For more on this topic, see EDIS Publication ENH1010, *Nutrition and Fertilization of Palms in Containers*, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP262>.) When a palm is transplanted to the landscape from a container, most of the palm's root system will remain largely confined to the original organic potting soil for several months following transplanting. As a result, container-grown palms that do not receive high N fertilizers after transplanting are likely to establish slowly and display symptoms of N deficiency during the first six to 12 months following planting. (For more on this topic, see EDIS Publication ENH1016, *Nitrogen Deficiency in Palms*, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP268>.) New research has demonstrated that palms fertilized with a high N fertilizer during the first six months after transplanting from containers established faster than those receiving lower-N, landscape maintenance fertilizers.

Fertilizers applied at time of transplanting should be top-dressed over the original rootball, and the area of fertilization should extend out six to 12 inches beyond the rootball edge. Subsequent fertilizations can follow recommendations for landscape palm maintenance.

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(561) 586-2332



LAKE OSBORNE ANIMAL CLINIC

JOHN T. LYNCH, D.V.M.

1502 Lake Osborne Dr.
Lake Worth, FL 33461

UPCOMING MEETINGS

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2010
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Mounts Botanical Garden
Speaker: Dale Holton Slide Presentation on Loren Whitelock's Garden

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2010
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Ruth Sallenbach's Home
 6285 S. Military Trail, Lake Worth
 (561) 965-5430

PLACE YOUR

Business Card, FOR SALE, Discount Coupon Ad - \$6 A MONTH OR \$66 A YEAR

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E-mail your ad or any photograph or information you would like included to beck4212@aol.com.

Send your check to:

Palm Beach Palm

& Cycad Society

c/o Brenda Beck

P.O. Box 21-2228

Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421

(Check must be received prior to print.)

HOLTON NURSERY PALMS and CYCADS



THIS MONTH'S "THANK YOU"

General Member Meeting Refreshments

Betty Ahlborn
 Cathy Burger
 Jim & Maryann Gallagher
 Duane Heiser
 Ruth Lynch
 Brenda Skaggs
 Gary & Bonnie Wilburn

Plant Donations

Dale Holton
 John Irvine



Special Thanks

to

Jim and Maryann Gallagher

for arriving at 5:00 p.m. to keep the Mounts building open for us.

Winners of the August 4th Name Drawing Prize were

Tom & Mary Whisler

who received a Palm Society Tee-shirt.

James Shields and West Taylor missed out on receiving this prize because they were not present.



World Champion *Roystonea oleracea* Palms in New Caledonia
by Charlie Beck

In 2000, I attended the International Palm Society Biennial meeting in New Caledonia. New Caledonia is located in tropical Southwest Pacific, 750 miles east of Australia and 950 miles north of New Zealand. There are 37 species of palms endemic to New Caledonia. Of the 37 native species, I photographed 25 growing in habitat, but what I would like to share with you are photographs of a planting of non-native palms. Many years ago, a grouping of *Roystonea oleracea* was planted.

This species is the largest of the Royal Palms and native to the Caribbean and South America. These palms were magnificent. They measured 160 feet tall. Due to the lack of cyclone activity in New Caledonia, these palms grew to a record height. In its native habitat, these palms top out at 120 feet tall.

Biennial participants were treated to a catered dinner served outdoors beside these palms. A stage was set up and a live classical music concert accompanied dinner. Generators were brought to this remote location and up-lighting was provided for night time viewing of these majestic palms (see photos on page 11).



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Exotic Palms
&
Tropicals

August 4th Meeting Summary

Due to technical difficulties, we were unable to show the Jeff Marcus Garden Tour slide presentation (again)! Therefore, a panel of our local experts took questions from the audience and shared their expertise with those in attendance. Our thanks to Betty Ahlborn, Dale Holton, John Irvine, Charlie Beck, Don Bittel, and Patt Lindsey for sitting on the panel.

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nance. (For more on this topic, see EDIS Publication ENH1009, *Fertilization of Field-grown and Landscape Palms in Florida*, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP261>.)



Palm & Cycad Sale

FALL SALE
Saturday October 9th
9am to 4pm
Sunday October 10th
9 am to 3pm

Caloosa Park

Located in Boynton Beach - north of Atlantic Ave., and south of Woolbright Rd - on the east side of Congress Ave.

Over 500 Species OF PALMS & CYCADS - ALL SHAPES AND SIZES!

ALSO - Books, T-Shirts & Free Knowledgeable Advice.

Sponsored by: The Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

For More Info Call
561-386-7812

FREE ADMISSION

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you can spare a few hours to help out at the plant sale, please call Tom Ramiccio at the number listed above.



Roystonea oleracea palms growing in New Caledonia. Note the size of the individuals on the photograph below to appreciate the scale of these fantastic palms.

(Photo by Charlie Beck)



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society
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*Chamaedorea
brachypoda*



*Chamaedorea
stolonifera*