



FEATURED THIS MONTH: Choice *Pritchardia* Species



Pritchardia pacifica growing in Fiji. (Photograph contributed to the Australian Palm Society website by Chris King.)



5 year-old *Pritchardia woodfordiana* specimen growing in the Beck garden.



8 year-old *Pritchardia affinis* specimen growing in the Beck garden.



6 year-old *Pritchardia thurstonii* specimen growing in the Beck garden.

FRONT COVER: 8 year-old *Pritchardia vuylstekeana* specimen growing in the Beck garden.
(Photo by Charlie Beck)

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**Featured this Month: Choice *Pritchardia* Species
 We Can Grow in Palm Beach County**

by Charlie Beck

Pritchardia is a genus containing approximately 30 species. They are medium-sized, solitary, palmate palms and are monoecious. *Pritchardia* palms are native to Hawaii and the South Pacific. Many of the *Pritchardia* species grow well in Palm Beach County. Some are cold sensitive and most are susceptible to Lethal Yellowing. We have grown many *Pritchardia* species in our garden. Although not all species are long-lived, they are rewarding to grow.

Pritchardia pacifica – In my opinion this is the most beautiful medium-sized palmate palm. We have grown a dozen of these palms in our garden. Unfortunately, the 2009-2010 winters caused the rapid decline and death of all of our specimens. These record cold winters seem to occur every 20 years. We can grow this palm inbetween these

extreme years. The other problem with *Pritchardia pacifica* is it is very susceptible to Lethal Yellowing. Fortunately, this palm is a rapid grower and is beautiful even at a small size. With proper irrigation and fertilization, you can grow this palm to at least 10 feet tall before it succumbs. Every palm enthusiast should include this palm in their collection. *P. pacifica* is usually available at palm sales. Tom Ramiccio has a potted specimen which survived our last two winters with no protection. Tom's home is located east of Route 1 in Lake Worth so low temperatures were moderated due to its close proximity to the ocean.

Pritchardia thurstonii - This species looks similar to *P. pacifica* but has very long inflorescences which extend beyond the leaf

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GROWING CONDITIONS IN THE BECK GARDEN FOR <i>Pritchardia</i> Species	
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	4 times a year with Palm special analysis
Light	Full sun
Micronutrient Deficiencies	None
Insect Damage	None observed
Cold Hardiness	Variable
Hurricane Resistance	Fair

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tips. It is native to Fiji. We have grown specimens to 15 feet tall but they died of Lethal Yellowing. We do have a specimen which survived our recent cold winters, so it appears more cold hardy than *P. pacifica*. Our six year old specimen has an overall height of six feet. Give it a try. It is usually available locally.

Pritchardia affinis – This palm is native to Hawaii. It grows well in our garden. Although damaged by the recent record cold, it is now fully recovered. This palm has a distinctive appearance unlike *P. pacifica*. Our specimen has grown to an overall height of 10 feet in eight years. This palm is available from Hawaiian palm vendors.

Pritchardia woodfordiana – This palm is endemic to the Solomon Islands. Like *P. affinis*, our specimen was damaged by the recent cold but did fully recover. In five years, our specimen has grown to an overall height of 10 feet. That growth rate is similar to what you can expect from *P. pacifica*. This species might be more of a challenge to find.

Pritchardia waialealeana – Beside *P. pacifica*, I feel this is the second most beautiful *Pritchardia*. It grows at elevations of 1,500 to 2,600 feet on the Hawaiian Island of Kauai. Its native range includes areas with extremely high rainfall – in excess of 400 inches per year. It's a larger palm than the other *Pritchardia* species. When young, they remind me of *Kerriodoxa ele-*



gans. I've grown them to perfection in the past but they mysteriously died. I've planted two more of these palms in 2007 and they have grown to an overall height of 5 ½ feet. They displayed less cold damage than *P. affinis* and *P. woodfordiana*. The only vendor I have found that sells these palms is Kapoho Palms in Hawaii.

Pritchardia vuylstekeana (vool-steek-ee-AH-na) – This palm is native to the Tuamotu Archipelago in French Polynesia. It grows on rocky cliffs. This palm has been reported as the most cold hardy of all of the non-Hawaiian *Pritchardia* palms. In our garden, it was least affected by our recent cold winters and it is growing at a fast rate. In eight years it has grown to an overall height of 15 feet. Don Hodel has stated that all *P. vuylstekeana* growing in Hawaii are probably *P. pacifica*. If this is true then it's a very cold hardy *P. pacifica*. This species is hard to find but is occasionally offered for sale from Hawaiian vendors.

Cathy and Lew Burger have a beautiful garden planted with many *Pritchardia* specimens. They agree that *P. pacifica* seems the most

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

GENERAL MEETING

- Date:** Wednesday, November 2, 2011
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Mounts Botanical Garden
Speaker: Paul Craft
Subject: The Amazing World of Palms

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

- Date:** Wednesday, November 30, 2011
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Ruth Sallenbach's Home
6285 S. Military Trail, Lake Worth
(561) 965-5430

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society Membership

Be sure to keep your membership up to date. It will insure that you receive all Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society communications. Annual membership is \$25 per person per year and membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Membership can be renewed by sending payments to the Society at P.O. Box 21-2228, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421.

Thank you for your support of the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society. We hope to see you at all of our general meetings which take place on the first Wednesday of every month at Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach. Be sure to watch for information regarding our field trips, special activities, and palm and cycad shows and sales.

If you have questions about membership, you can contact Tom Whisler, our Membership Chairman, at whisler.tom@synthes.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

MEMBERS ONLY HOLIDAY PARTY AND ANNUAL PLANT GIVE-AWAY

Wednesday, December 7, 2011
7:00 P.M.

At Mounts Botanical Garden

We have a diverse collection of palms for this year's holiday party give-away. All are proven growers in Palm Beach County. Some are giants and some are very tiny but all are worthy candidates for our gardens. See the list of give-away palms listed below!

Genus/species

Actinokentia divaricata
Archontophoenix purpurea
Arenga engleri
Arenga pinnata
Burretiokentia hapala
Calyptrocalyx hollrungii
Caryota no
Chamaedorea arenbergiana
Chambeyronia hookeri
Chambeyronia macrocarpa
Cyrstostachys elegans
Dypsis decaryi
Dypsis lanceolata
Dypsis pembana
Dypsis psammophila
Kentia oliviformis

Genus/species

Kerriodoxa elegans
Licuala distans
Licuala grandis
Licuala ramsayi
Lytocaryum weddellianum
Neophloga sp. (pink crownshaft)
Pinanga coronata (blunt leaf form)
Pinanga philippinensis
Polyandrococos caudescens
Pritchardia affinis (domestic seed)
Pritchardia beccariana
Ptychosperma schefferi
Reinhardtia laisecta
Sabal mauritiformis
Satakentia liukiuensis
Syagrus pseudococos
Syagrus sancona (Colombian foxtail)

THIS MONTH'S "THANK YOU"

PLANT DONATIONS

Steve Garland
Mike Harris
Dale Holton
Ted Sheldon

MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Murray Corman
John Irvine
Ruth Lynch
Ed Napoli
Tom Ramiccio
Teri Scoggins
Mary & Tom Whisler

SEPTEMBER DOOR PRIZE WINNER

Mary Whisler won Disorders and Diseases of Ornamental Palms published by IFAS.

SPECIAL THANKS

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Brian Clement
Brad Chamness
Betty & Joe Libertucci
Kathy & Rod Silverio
Joan Smith

MEMBERSHIP SALE FOR NEW MEMBERS

As Membership Chair, it is my pleasure to announce a **MEMBERSHIP SALE** for the Palm Beach Palm and Cycad Society. New members can join now and receive a membership for the remainder of 2011 and 2012 – all for the price of one year’s membership of \$25.00. That’s right, \$25 for the remainder of 2011 and all of 2012! The sale includes 2 summer picnics, 2 end-of-year holiday parties where we have fantastic palm give-always, the monthly newsletter, monthly palm and cycad auctions and all the great information you receive at our monthly meetings. Don’t delay ... tell all your friends to join now or give them the membership form included in this newsletter.

Tom Whisler



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Home Telephone: _____
 Cell Phone: _____
 E-mail address: _____

New Member Renewal

Please send the annual individual membership fee of \$25 payable to the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society, to:

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society
 P.O. Box 21-2228
 Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421
 Attn: Membership Chairman

Membership runs from January 1 through December 31. Membership includes the monthly newsletter and receipt of free palms and cycads at the annual plant give-away in December.

FOR PALM SOCIETY USE ONLY				
\$	Check No.	Year		

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 cold sensitive. None of their *P. pacifica* survived the recent cold winters. They also agree that *P. vuylstekeana* appears to be their most cold hardy *Pritchardia*. *Pritchardia aylmer-robinsonii*, *P. thurstonii*, and *P. hillebrandii* are all fully recovered from the recent record cold in their garden. Dale Holton reported that his potted *Pritchardia minor* have come through our recent record cold with no damage.

With proper irrigation and fertilization, many *Pritchardia* palms are well adapted to growing in our sandy soil. Some are more cold hardy than others. *P. vuylstekeana* seems the most cold hardy. In our garden, *P. vuylstekeana* and *P. woodfordiana* grow at a rapid rate similar to *P. pacifica*. For tropical beauty, few palms can match *P. pacifica* and *P. waialealeana*. Although some are susceptible to Lethal Yellowing and low temperatures, we should include these palms in our gardens for their sheer beauty.

Mike Harris
 1584 F Road Phone: (561) 792-0333
 Loxahatchee, FL 33470 E-mail: palmz@gate.net

HOLTON NURSERY
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 (Check must be received prior to print.)



ABOVE AND BELOW: Two 4 year-old *Pritchardia waialealeana* specimens growing in the Beck garden.



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