

FEATURED THIS MONTH:

Calyptrocalyx albertisianus

by Ernesto Rodriguez

Calyptrocalyx albertisianus is a medium sized, beautiful, solitary palm, that can attain heights of 15-18 feet. This palm is endemic to the lowland rainforest of New Guinea and was named in honor of Italian naturalist and explorer of New Guinea, Luigi d'Alberty.

Mature specimens have a tan trunk with light cream colored leaf base scars. New emergent leaves are deep cherry red and can last for about 2 weeks before turning brownish orange and then finally to deep green. The inflorescence are small white flowers and fruits are bright red.

From my experience *C. albertisianus* does best in a sheltered location from wind, partial shade avoiding midday sun, and well drained humus-laden soil. Never let the soil dry out between watering. This palm is surprisingly cold hardy and can easily be grown in Palm Beach county.

C. albertisianus is a highly ornamental palm and becoming more readily available for cultivation. If finding a suitable spot for one in your garden becomes difficult, this species can be kept in a pot indoors or outdoors for many years. I find this species is easy to grow and very resilient, suffering little shock when transplanting.

For more information about the *Calyptrocalyx* genus, an article submitted by Charlie Beck can be found on the website in the "Palms that grow well in Palm Beach County" directory and in the 2018 December newsletter.



Calyptrocalyx albertisianus young specimen showing off red emergent leaf

Photo by: Ernesto Rodriguez



Above: juvenile *Calyptrocalyx albertisianus*

Photo courtesy of: D'Asign Source Botanicals

Below: detail of newly opened *Calyptrocalyx albertisianus* leaf

Photo by: Ed Vaile

