

GROWING
Dypsis mirabilis* f/k/a *Dypsis paludosa
IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

Submitted by Charlie Beck

Dypsis paludosa is native to the east coast of Madagascar. It occurs along the coast in pockets of peat swamp developed on white sand. It ranges from sea level to 900' in elevation. The leaf form is quite variable. The pinnate leaves can be regularly to irregularly divided or can be bifid. *D. paludosa* stems can be solitary but most often clump. In habitat the stems can reach 18' in height and measure 1-2" in diameter. The stem is a grey-green color but the leaf bases are covered with reddish brown scales.

D. paludosa is a new palm in our garden. It was only planted last year. It has grown rapidly and is quite attractive. Cold hardiness was not tested by our most recent mild winter but growth was strong throughout the colder months. Our specimen is situated in deep shade and planted in a wet low lying area. I heavily mulch this palm several times a year to conserve moisture and to acidify the soil. It seems to love our sandy soil. Luckily our specimen is the bifid form and has not given any indications of clumping. Floribunda Palms in Hawaii offers this same palm as *Dypsis paludosa* (entire leaf form). I'm sure to order a few more of this palm for our collection and hopefully our Palm Society will acquire a few of these gems for our monthly palm auction.



A one year old
Dypsis paludosa (bifid form)
in the Beck garden.

FEATURED PALM NAME CHANGE
Dypsis paludosa* actually *Dypsis mirabilis

Submitted by Charlie Beck

In the April issue of our newsletter we featured *Dypsis paludosa*. The source of this plant was Floribunda Palms and Exotics. John Dransfield, formally of Kew Garden and leading authority on palms of Madagascar, recently visited Floribunda Palms and verified that palms sold as *Dypsis paludosa* were actually *Dypsis mirabilis*.