

# GROWING *Dypsis pambana* IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

*Submitted by Charlie Beck*

When Scott Zona presented a list of his 20 favorite palms, he included *Dypsis cabadae* and *Dypsis lanceolata*. Both of these are attractive clumping palms with ringed green trunks, but I think both are trumped by the recently available *Dypsis pambana*.

*D. pambana* is a more robust palm, growing in our garden two to three times as fast as *D. cabadae* or *D. lanceolata*. The stems are larger and are waxy green with an attractive silver cast. *D. pambana* is a sparse clumper. Planted four years ago from a three gallon pot, our specimen

<b>GROWING CONDITIONS IN OUR GARDEN FOR <i>Dypsis pambana</i></b>	
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
Flooding	Periodic inundation in sandy soil acceptable
Fertilization	3 times a year with Palm special analysis
Light	Light shade
Micronutrient Deficiencies	None observed
Insect Damage	None observed
Hurricane Resistance	Unknown

has a 20 foot tall overall height with a six and one-half foot tall stem. It only has one sucker. The leaflets are wider than *D. cabadae* and the leaves grow in three ranks similar to the Triangle Palm.



***Dypsis pambana* growing in the  
Beck garden.**

In comparison, we have several 16 year-old *D. cabadae* which have an overall trunk height of 18 feet and have grown many suckers. Our four year-old *D. lanceolata* has an overall height of eight and one-half feet with a few suckers.

*D. pambana* is endemic to Pemba Island which is located just off mainland Africa. It grows in low elevation moist forests. This palm has a vulnerable conservation status with only 3,000 specimens in the wild within a single forest.

Even though *D. pambana* is reported to be cold sensitive, I have noticed no effects of our winter cold temperatures on this palm. *D. pambana* is reported to grow 40 feet tall so it might be wise to plant a succession of these palms so that there are always beautiful crowns to admire close to the ground.

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*Dypsis pambana*



*Dypsis cabadae*



*Dypsis cabadae*



*Dypsis lanceolata*