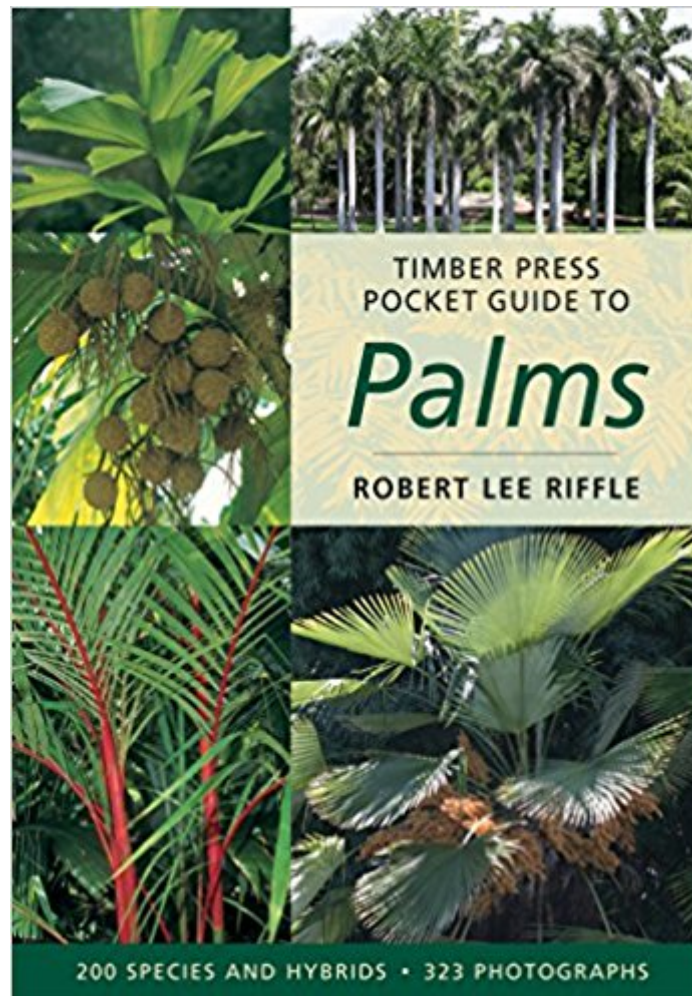




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# Timber Press Pocket Guide To Palms (Timber Press Pocket Guides)



## Synopsis

Given their diversity and versatility, it is surprising that palms are underutilized in landscapes and gardens, even in tropical climates. Several reasons account for this, including misconceptions about the plants' growing requirements and unfamiliarity with their ornamental qualities. This pocket guide remedies both problems. It unlocks the keys to successfully growing 200 of the most common and easily obtainable palm species and hybrids, and it highlights botanical characteristics that are of interest to gardeners and landscapers. Each description includes details of trunk, crownshaft, leaf, flower, and fruit to assist in plant identification and selection. The extensive cultivation notes include details of mature tree size, cold hardiness, and light, soil, and water requirements. Suggestions for using the plants indoors and out will help even novice gardeners know where to start, and succinct information on seed germination will assist anyone who wants to grow palms from seed. Illustrated with more than 300 color photographs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Copiously illustrated with high-quality color photographs, the text is concise, complete, and includes tropical plant expert Riffle’s personal appraisal of each plant’s horticultural utility.”

Although they are a symbol of the tropics, palms are indigenous to every continent except Antarctica

and can be grown in climates with temperatures as low as 5° F (-15° C). So why are palms often under-utilized in landscapes, even tropical ones? Perhaps because of our unfamiliarity with their cultural needs. The Timber Press Pocket Guide to Palms unlocks the keys to successfully growing 200 of the most common and easily obtainable palm species and hybrids for temperate, Mediterranean, warm temperature, and tropical regions. Details of mature tree size, cold hardiness, and light, soil, and water requirements accompany suggestions for using the palms indoors and out. Illustrated with more than 300 color photographs, this guide is a valuable complement to *An Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms* and an ideal reference for taking to the nursery or garden center.

The introduction provides a brief presentation on "Palm Structure, Palm Habitat, Palms in the Landscape, Pruning, Aesthetic Concerns, Human Safety, and Health of the Palm". These sections are brief but the information is good and a pleasure to read. The intro is followed by several pages listing palms in various categories such as water preference, growth rate, soil type, size, salt tolerance, and climate range (all by Latin names). This is a handy section for selecting a palm to read more about later in the book. The heart of the book is an A to Z (by Latin name) encyclopedia style presentation of palms. Each entry includes common names and a general description of size (height, width, trunk, crownshaft, and leaves), fruit, growth rate, climate, sun exposure, water needs, soil preference, indoor use, and seed germination. The entries are somewhat brief but pack in a lot of information. There are 1 to 3 pictures of each palm. The book is physically not large (it is a nice size), but the pictures are good. It is a great book for a novice like myself who is seeking to plant a few "wisely" selected species of palm tree. Organization by Latin name is not a problem, the index includes both Latin and common names. Add Betrock's "Essential Guide to Palms" for a great complimentary reference. One negative: the hardiness zone map at the end of the book is poor.

If you are looking for a good book on palm trees with a general coverage of the subject, this is the book to get. The author was a recognized authority on palms, but he passed away in 2006, and when this book goes out of print, it may become very difficult to find. The descriptions of palms are a little skimpy so you may not be able to use the book to determine what kind of a palm you have, but the book does an outstanding job of providing you the basic information you need to grow and care for the palms listed within (about 200 species). This is an excellent first book for someone that wants to grow their expertise on palms.

This is a very good starter guide for people wanting to become familiar with growing palms and

introducing many of the most commonly grown species. I was new to Florida and wanted to determine the hardiness of some of the more unusual palms and this book had the majority of them. Some species were not as easy to grow as was indicated, but this is so variable and depends on the microclimate of where they are planted and how they are cared for. I would give it a 4 1/2 if that was an option. Definitely worth adding to your collection.

Again another book purchase for my Alzheimer-y Mom. This is a small book but contains lots of pictures which was one of my priorities. Mom hardly reads anymore but can be kept busy flipping pages looking at pictures. I will use this book for landscaping purposes. My only complaint is we already own a Canary Island Palm. There was nothing about Canary Island palm seeds. I had to research on the internet to find out you need both a male and female near each other to get the seed production. Also I hate throwing out those fronds. I wish the book had included suggestions for frond use like weaving.....

The Timber Press Pocket Guide to Palms contains information not usually found in other books on palms. Some books assume prior knowledge on the subject, and others treat palms somewhat superficially. This book not only provides detailed descriptions of the palms, but also provides information as to proper cultivation and care. The photos are excellent and are selected to illustrate the properties being discussed in the text.

Illustrations were pretty good, but would be better to have a full page illustration for each species. Information was concise and useful. No common names, all Latin. Great to make sure of exactly which species you are reading about, but impossible to look up by names most people use. Ok if common names were just in the index, but they are not.

This is a good guide to palm trees from around the world. The only bummer was that 90% of the palms in the book, (especially the coolest ones) won't grow where I live. Other than that, it is packed with information like size, origin, climate zone, how to grow from seed and of course lots of photos.

This book on palms is also very informative. It also gives planting tips and there is also a section on tropical plants and how and where to plant and maintain them.

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