



CANARY ISLAND DATE PALM

Phoenix canariensis

DID YOU KNOW? Canary palm is considered to be the natural symbol of the Canary Islands (together with the canary bird), according to an act from this place.

It belongs to the Arecaceae family and the Coryphoideae subfamily. It is a palm tree species that is exclusive from the Canary Islands.

Common names: “palmera canaria”, “palma” (Spanish); “palmeira canaria” (Galician); “Canary Island date palm”, “Canary Island date palm” (English).

Etymology:

- Phoenix: it is a generic name that comes from the Greek word “φοῖνιξ” or “φοίνικος” (phoinikos), which is the name used for the date palm, used by Theophrastus and Pliny the Elder. It is likely for them to refer to the Phoenician Phoenix, son of Amyntor and Cleobule in Homer’s Iliad, or to the phoenix (bird).
- Canariensis: geographic epithet that refers to its location in the Canary Islands.

Description: It is a plant up to 20 meters high that has a straight and thick trunk with no buds at its base. Its crown is rounded and leafy. Its leaves are very big, very long, green, lanceolate, slightly rigid and folded. Canary palm has male specimens, which produce an inflorescence with many white flowers that releases pollen, and female specimens with bigger and a branched inflorescence, and yellow flowers that are more separate. Its fruit is known as “támaras” and are like small dates with little pulp and a single seed with a deep lateral groove. When they ripe they have a yellow-orange color.

