

Saw Palmetto

Serenoa repens

Saw palmetto grows wild in Florida's natural areas, but it's also a useful plant for the home landscape. This native plant tolerates a range of conditions and provides wonderful textural interest beneath new or established trees. It's highly salt-tolerant making it ideal for coastal gardening. In the spring 3 foot long flower stalks appear sporting small yellow-white, fragrant flowers. Bees are attracted by these flowers making high-grade saw palmetto honey. The flowers are followed by small yellow berries that ripen and turn black August through October. Saw palmetto is great for wildlife as the berries are an important food source for many mammals and birds. It is a host plant for the caterpillars of the palmetto skipper and monk butterflies.

Type: low growing, clumping palm

USDA hardiness zones: 8 through 11

Uses: border; mass planting; container or

Origin: native to Florida

Height: 5 to 10 feet **Spread:** 4 to 10 feet

Plant spacing: 3 to 5 feet

Light requirement: full shade to part sun

Soil tolerances: alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam

Drought tolerance: high

Soil salt tolerances: good

Invasive potential: low

Pest resistance: No pests or diseases are of major concern

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Photo: UF IFAS