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## PALM CARE FOR NORTH TEXAS

Palm trees, just the mention of them and most of us think of warm tropical breezes and frozen fruity drinks with fancy embellishments. Here in North Texas you can enjoy your palm trees and your favorite fruity drink but not so sure about the warm tropical breeze - more like a blast from a hot oven.

There are several varieties of palms that will perform quite well in this area with proper planting and some loving care. *Trachycarpus fortunei* - Windmill Palm is one of the toughest for this area. This palm can reach a height of 20' and is cold hardy down to 10 degree F. *Washingtonia Robusta* - Mexican Fan Palm is a very fast growing upright palm tree that will adapt to most soil types and is even very drought tolerant. This palm is hardy to around 20 degree F. *Cycas revolute* - Sago Palm are a wonderful smaller addition to a tropical landscape and also make great container plants. Although the Sago is not really in the palm family but are actually cycads - one of the oldest plant families known. Sago palms are hardy to 15 degrees. *Chamaerops humilis* - Mediterranean Fan Pam is a shorter growing palm for use in areas in which height is not desirable. This palm is hardy to 20 degrees F.

To keep your palm healthy and green there are a few little steps to take:

1. Amend the soil to help improve the drainage.  
Adding expanded shale, compost, dried molasses and green sand is recommended.
2. Plant high so the root ball is a good 2 inches above the grade, this will help with drainage which is important for the health of your palm.
3. Water thoroughly but allow the soil to drain and dry between watering.
4. Protect your palm on the coldest of winter days by first watering to fill in the air pockets in the soil and wrap the trunk if we are expecting ice or a wintery mix. Fertilize your palm - Carl Pool Palm food is a great conventional product or for those who like to garden organically Garrett Juice and Seaweed will make your palm thrive like it is living on the Gulf Coast.
5. A secret tip is that palms love magnesium and a good source for magnesium is Epsom salt.

Now kick back with your frozen fruity drink and enjoy your tropical getaway.