



Emerald Goddess Gardens

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- Botanical Name: *Raphis excelsa*
- Common Name: Lady Palm
- Plant Family: Arecaceae
- Mature Size: 6 to 15 ft.
- Growth Habit: Upright Fan Leaf
- Bloom Color: Yellow
- Bloom Form: Inconspicuous Spike
- Bloom Time: Sporadic
- Water Needs: Moderate
- Light Needs: Shade or Bright Indirect Light
- Recommended Zones: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
- Key Features: Low Light Tolerant Plant, Shiny Fan Shaped Leaves
- Suggested Uses: Indoor Potted Specimen, Shade Garden Accent
- Growers Notes : Avoid pruning fronds with small brown areas as these still provide nutrients to plant. Prune only fully brown or yellow fronds.



Raphis excelsa or **Lady Palm** is one of our favorite indoor plants. These palms are highly tolerant of low light conditions where other species may struggle. They create an elegant tropical feel to any location with their shiny dark green fronds. While we often highlight the merits of Lady Palm as an indoor plant, they are also extremely successful outdoors as shade garden accents. When allowed to grow freely these palms can reach upwards of 15 feet, but can be pruned to remain a smaller height as needed.

Raphis Palms are native to China, but no longer exist growing in nature. This species is kept alive by various cultivators across the globe. These palms are also exceptional air purifiers as they are most skilled at eliminating carbon dioxide, formaldehyde, xylene, and ammonia. Many growers place Lady Palms indoors to take advantage of their natural purifying qualities.

Lady Palms are relatively easy to care for. They have moderate watering needs and will require a regular watering schedule to look their best. Though it is tempting to remove leaves with any flaws, it is important to leave any fronds with small brown spots or imperfections intact on your palm as it still uses these fronds to absorb light and create nutrients (this note is especially important when growing in very low-light conditions).

Direct planting of 4 inch starters is not recommended. For success with your new Lady Palm follow these helpful tips:

- Plant in well draining soil.
- Locate in bright indirect light or shade.
- Provide supplemental irrigation until well established.
- Feed a good quality bloom boosting fertilizer with the initial planting and yearly thereafter.
- Protect from frost and freeze until very well established.

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Toxicity information generally known in the horticultural trade and gardening circles, if known, is provided for reference purposes only. Medical and/or Horticulture experts in the field of Plant Toxicology should be consulted for specific and reliable information. The absence of information does not mean or imply that a plant is not toxic, only that no information is generally known by us.

This plant is intended for ornamental, decorative use only. Emerald Goddess Gardens tm does not recommend, endorse, or offer the product for any other intended use.

Care of Your New Shade Garden Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new plant:

Check the recommended USDA Zone Range for the plant. Many gardeners are able to successfully grow plants outside their recommended Zones, but this is dependent upon providing the type of environment and care the plant needs.

- Immediately plant or repot the new plant into a prepared bed or a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. Do not use hot, all chemical fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate in light to moderate shade. This plant must be protected from hot, direct afternoon sun.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over water.
- Packing crystals may be reused to conserve water, but do so with caution as they hold 6000 times their weight in water. If reusing the crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the potting media.
- Be sure the pot can drain and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water for more than a few hours.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune or pinch lightly and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze, as even cold tolerant plants can be damaged by cold, and tropicals will perform better, flower earlier, and live longer within their Zone Range when protected from cold temperatures.

Many tropical and subtropical plants can be grown as potted plants indefinitely, and can be successfully wintered over, or adapted to growing indoors year round in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the 30°F's, are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40°F) with adequate, full spectrum light, consistent soil moisture is maintained, and any pest or disease issue are promptly and properly addressed.

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