PROVEN PALMS
FOR SOUTHERN NEVADA LANDSCAPES

Linn Mills
Area Specialist – Horticulture

Bob Hammond
Extension Educator

Wayne Johnson, Ph.D
State Specialist - Horticulture
The ornate tropical appearance and aristocratic silhouette of palms can add much to southern Nevada landscapes. Few other plants are as versatile, adaptable or impressive and capture interest with their distinctive features in home landscapes. A good selection of palms are available to southern Nevada gardeners, ranging from the dwarf Mediterranean Fan Palm to the massive Canary Island Date Palm. Palms suggest an oasis and simulate the effects of tropical landscapes - especially where you want a bold accent or the suggestion of tropics is desired. Palms may be planted in clumps or as single specimens for accent. They provide background or stately litter-free sentinels near swimming pools and patios. Mostly known for their tropical flair, palms may also provide shade, shelter and fruit. At night, backlighting can enhance these spectacular plants.

The culture of palms is relatively simple. They can be planted throughout the year; but for quicker rooting and establishment, transplant them when soils are warm. Before transplanting, pull fronds upward and tie them together to minimize dehydration of crown foliage. Remove the ties after new growth resumes.

Most palms tolerate a variety of soils. However, for good growth they prefer fertile soils that are well-drained. Most will tolerate some drought, but deep, regular watering will provide the desired root zone moisture. Fertilize moderately during the growing season with any garden fertilizer that contains nitrogen.

Prune mature fronds off as they accumulate, or leave them to give the skirt effect desired by some gardeners. The best time to prune is in mid- to late summer. You'll be removing the flower and fruit stalks at the same time.