

PLANT PARTS

Canary Island Date Palm
Phoenix canariensis

These trees can grow 10-20 metres tall. They can grow up to 30 cm in a year.

← **Crown**
made from all of the fronds

← **Frond** →

These fronds can be 4-6 metres long!

Inflorescence
flower stalk

← **Flowers** →

← **Fruit** →

date-like drupe

← **Trunk**

This tree's trunk can grow to 60-90 cm in diameter (width across).

← **Root system**

large solitary palm with single trunk

These trees can grow from sea level up to 600 metres.

These palms grow across all of the Canary Islands and can be found in Spain.

.....
Palm spotting - have a go:
 • The oldest plant here in the Palm House is our Canary Island Survivor Palm. It is 100 years old! Face the stage and look up to the left and you can see it.

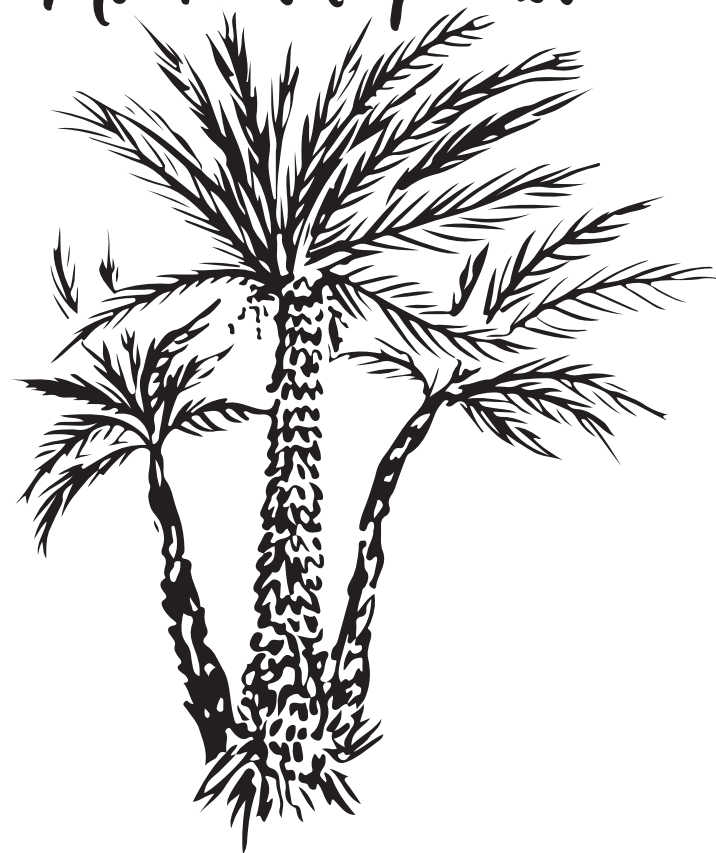
Palm Tree Plant Parts

Above you can see the plant parts that make up a palm tree. We have over 20 different types of palm trees at the Palm House. Each species is unique and these parts can be found on most of them. Some palms have one big trunk, like the Canary Island Date Palm. Other palms grow together in clusters with multiple stems, like the Cretan Date Palm.

Things to do: Can you find these two types of palm trees at the Palm House? What differences do you notice? What do they have in common?

Cretan date palm

Phoenix theophrasti



Cretan Date Palms have similar parts to the Canary Island Date Palm, but have some differences in how they look and where they grow.

Their trunks can grow in clustered groups. Their fronds are 2-4 metres long. The trees can grow to 10-15 metres high. Their trunk grows to around 50 cm in diameter (width across). They can tolerate salt so they are able to grow along the coast. They are found in Europe around the Mediterranean, especially in Turkey and Crete. They are likely the original date palm where edible date tree (*Phoenix dactylifera*) came from.

Information for group leaders

Palm tree plant - a mature plant is fully grown and able to reproduce. It can make flowers and fruit. They have a woody stem and a crown of leaves.

Flowers - the reproductive structure of the tree that usually blossom in the spring. They then turn into the fruit which ripen in the autumn.

Inflorescence - a flower stalk with clusters of small flowers which will turn into the stalk that holds the fruit.

Crown - found at the top of a palm tree, is it a big cluster made from the fronds. Some crowns have up to 100 fronds!

Frond - the large pinnate leaf found on a palm tree. It is made from many smaller leaflets that grow along the rib (middle section). Pinnate means a leaf that is made of many smaller leaflets. The leaflets grow from a central leaf stalk, called a petiole.

Leaflet - a small part of a compound leaf. Compound leaves, like palm leaves, are made of many smaller parts. The leaflets on a palm leaf are the smaller feather-like pieces attached to the middle stem.

Leaf sheath - this is what attaches the base of the frond to the tree. The leaf grows out of the sheath.

Trunk - the large stem that grows upward from the tree's roots in the ground. Palm trunks can be rough. Their texture is created from layers of leaf bases that accumulate as the tree grows taller. The newest leaf bases are found in the crown at the top.

Fruit - the seed that develops after the flower is pollinated. They are date-like in appearance and called drupes. Some palms have fruit that are tasty but many are not edible. The dates we eat come from the *Phoenix dactylifera*, the edible date tree. The Cretan and Canary Island Date Palm fruit is not very tasty!

Root system - the tree's root system grows underground, horizontally along the topsoil. Palm tree roots are made of many thin fibers. They help to gather nutrients and water from the soil. These also help the tree to stay upright and sturdy.