

Brahea armata S.Watson

(Blue Hesper Palm)



Notes

This palm is primarily grown for its ornamental characteristics, mainly due to its attractive, silver-blue colored, fan-shaped leaves. This distinctive palm makes an extraordinary accent plant and can be used as a focal point. The arching flower panicles of the blue hesper palm are one of the most beautiful among all the palms. A small to moderate-sized palm that is easy to grow.

Good drought and cold tolerance.

Above: Detail of foliage

Origin	Mexico, Baja California.
Habit	Palm. Solitary stem and rounded crown of leaves.
Description	Slow growing, small to medium sized palm; 12 to 15m in height with the crown being approximately 5m wide. Single, grey trunk holding a rounded crown of stiff, silvery-blue fan shaped leaves. Arching panicles of flowers extend beyond the leaves; white flowers followed by dark-brown fruit.
Tolerances	Grows in full sun and part-shade positions; tolerant of light frost. Desert palm with high tolerance of drought, but would benefit from occasional irrigation during extended dry periods. Also grows well in alkaline soils. Moderately tolerant of salty soils.
Availability	Unknown. Presume rare. Propagated from seed.
Uses & management	Urban landscapes, parks and streets. No major pest or disease concerns. Ornamental characteristics and tolerances suggest that this palm should be more widely used in urban landscapes. Roots are sensitive to disturbance; can be difficult to transplant. The petioles are covered in spines. This palm is best planted away from foot paths or walkways.

Reference

Floridata 2010 *Brahea armata*. Updated 18/1/04. Available at: http://www.floridata.com/ref/b/brah_arm.cfm [Accessed, 18/8/10].

Spencer, R. 2005. Horticultural flora of south-eastern Australia Volume 5: flowering plants. Monocotyledons. University of New South Wales Press.

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