

## Common Name: Phonex Palm

*Phoenix Dactylifera*

Order: Arecales

Family: Arecaceae

Genus: Phoenix

Species:  
*Dactylifera*



## DESCRIPTION

- Phoenix is native to an area starting from the Canary Islands in the west, across northern and central Africa, to the extreme southeast of Europe (Crete), and continuing throughout southern Asia, from Anatolia east to southern China and Malaysia.
- The pinnate leaves, 1–6 m long, all share the common feature of metamorphosed lower-leaf segments into long, vicious spines. The leaves have short or absent petioles and possess the rare feature among pinnate palms of induplicate (V-shaped) leaflets.
- The fruit is large with a thick layer of fruit pulp, edible, very sweet and rich in sugar.
- The central soft part of the stem of is a rich source of starch. Palms are felled to extract this central 'pith' which is dried, powdered, stored and used for preparation of bread in the Indian subcontinent.