



## **Archontophoenix Care Guide**

The following will be of use to ensure that your palm has the best possible start.

- Take care on opening. The netting is best cut at the base of the container and pulled upwards to remove.
- Using a slow or controlled release fertilizer when planting will ensure that your plant is correctly fed and will grow at an optimum rate remembering to re-pot as necessary. John Innes or general multi- purpose compost will usually have sufficient food for the first 4-6 weeks, if no food is added.
- If growing in a container, allow the plant to become near root bound before potting on and grown inside they require a well-lit room or conservatory.
- Archontophoenix alexandrae are best grown inside, though depending upon where you live and the size of the plant they can be grown outside during the warmer months. Archontophoenix cunninghamiana can tolerate mild frost and even up to  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$  for mature specimens. We have overwintered ones in a sheltered position under a tall tree where outside temperatures were as low as  $-6^{\circ}\text{C}$ . If you live in a very sheltered area it may be worth trying outside and providing protection is essential. Winter wet is their biggest enemy and rotting of the crown a problem if outside in winter.
- Archontophoenix palms are fairly slow growing palms and best grown in full sun or part shade in rich, well drained soil and are good to grow in large pots. Restricting the pot size will limit the total height of this palm. They have medium water requirements and it is best not to allow them to dry out in the growing season. Like most palms, they are best kept on the dryer side in winter to prevent the trunk from rotting when they are near dormant.
- If a leaf becomes tatty, simply prune the stem to the trunk and new leaves will emerge from the crown of the palm (though not as fast as some species).
- Please remember to also look at "Is it Hardy" at the top of Plant Care section.

Please have a look at [www.easytropicals.com](http://www.easytropicals.com) for companion ideas. If you have any questions please email for a prompt reply.

Many thanks for looking.