

## Queen Palm, Cocos Palm

*Syagrus romanzoffiana*



**Pictorial glossary of plant part terms used in this guide.**

**Alternative Name(s):** *Arecastrum romanzoffianum*.

**Family:** Arecaceae.

**Form:** Tree

**Origin:** Native of South America.

**Flowers/Seedhead:** Inflorescences initially enclosed by 2 woody pointed bracts. Flowers yellow in groups of 3 where one flower is female and 2 male. Flowers mostly spring.

**Description:** Large palm to 20 m high, with trunk to 0.6 m wide. Trunk smooth, grey, with widely spaced horizontal leaf scars. Leaves with leaflets to 1 m long and to 3 cm wide, spreading in different planes giving a plume-like appearance. Fruit crowded in hanging masses.

**Distinguishing features:** Distinguished by large size when mature; leaves to 5 m long, pinnately divided with 150–250 leaflets per side, leaflets often in clusters of 2–7; inflorescence a branched panicle to 2 m long with male and female flowers; fruit broad ovoid, 2.5–3 cm long, 1–2 cm wide, yellow to orange when ripe.

**Dispersal:** Spread by seed that is bat-dispersed.



Mature palm, Rocky Creek Dam, NSW

**Notes:** Naturalised in native forest and rainforest particularly along river banks and near the coast in north-eastern New South Wales and southeastern Queensland. Garden plant that could be better replaced with an appropriate native palm.

### References:

*Key Guide to Australian Palms, Ferns and Allies.* L. Cronin, 1989, pages 38–39.

**Web References:** Search Australian web sites for further information on this weed.



Fruit in hanging mass



Woody bracts previously around flowers



Fruit of various ages, Lismore

This weed has been included in the WEEDeck field guide as card T22