

Steve Stern
Exotic Palms
25000 S.W. 152 Avenue
Miami, FL 33157
305-246-3125
rarepalm@bellsouth.net
www.rarepalm.com

GROWING TIPS

MOVING YOUR PALMS

First, we here at Exotic Palms feel without a doubt that root pruning is absolutely essential to successfully relocating a planted palm. Even though several recognized authorities say that because of the way palms produce roots, root pruning is not necessary. A more thorough peek at these statements reveals that only regarding very specific palms is it not necessary. Nearly all articles go on to state that “valuable palms” should be root pruned. I believe that any palm you are taking the time and effort to relocate is indeed “valuable”.

For most palms we root prune in 4 stages and vary the length of time between stages according to the palm species. We recommend trenching minimally 18 inches from the trunk and trench 8 inches deep on the one side of the palm. We then fill the trench with natural mulch (undyed). We wait two to three weeks and providing there is no die back, do the same thing on the opposite side of the palm. We remove the mulch from the previously cut side and undercut the root mass in order to begin to form a cone shaped root ball. We then refill the trench with mulch and repeat the same process on the other two sides at 2 to 3 week intervals. Should the palm show any sign of stress or die back during the processes, we do not continue and wait for the palm to recuperate before continuing the root pruning.

Once the root pruning is completed, we break the root ball free of the ground. Now, most importantly, we never, never ever, lift the palm out of the hole by its stem (trunk). When using a sling, we fasten the strap under the root ball and lift out of the hole by lifting the root ball. Many palms cannot sustain the weight of the root ball when lifting by the trunk causing some of the major roots to crack or break. If this should happen, it will result in a very slow but very certain death of the palm in the matter of several weeks to several months. In other words....Don't lift it by the trunk!