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GROWING TIPS

RED SEALING WAX PALM (Cyrtostachys Renda)

Also commonly called Lipstick palm, Rajah palm, Red palm

This palm requires very specific care for it to do well in Florida.

This palm must be kept protected from cold weather. Cold weather is below 48 degrees.

Choose the site in which you are to display or plant your palm carefully. The palm should be planted in morning sun or filtered light. Morning sun is before twelve noon. In Central America and the Caribbean this palm thrives in full all day hot sun, **it does not do well** in the direct full hard brutally hot sun of summer afternoons here in South Florida. If possible plant the palm near a wall, inside an entry garden, in a corner or close to a residual heat source.

If in a container when the temperature is going to be below 48 degrees, bring the palm indoors. If this is not possible, push the palm up against the house, well protected from cold wind, wrap the stem and the pot with a blanket or heating pad and cover the leaves with a blanket or sheet.

If in the ground when cold weather is eminent wrap the plant with a blanket, another alternative is to purchase "halogen work lights" these are the double lights on a portable stand that throw off an enormous amount of heat as well as light. They are relatively inexpensive at either Harbor freight or Northern tool as well as a bunch of other places. Make absolutely certain that the light is situated far enough away from the plant so as not to burn or damage the palm as these lights throw off tremendous amounts of heat. Face one light on the palm the other face towards the ground at the base of the palm.

If using the halogen lights or other heat providing devices in conjunction with the wrapping of the plants be very, very careful and be certain to use materials warranted to be fireproof.

In either case If it's going to be real cold then cover the blankets and sheets with plastic or a tarp. **Do not let the tarp or plastic come in direct contact with leaves.** The plastic is solely used to cover the blankets to retain the heat. Be extremely careful if using the lights with wrapped or covered plants be certain the wrappings are fire retardant.

Fungicide is highly recommended.

Red Sealing Wax palms are susceptible to a cold weather fungus that is easily controlled but not eliminated by spraying with a fungicide called Dithane or Mancozeb or possibly another zinc based fungicide.

Usually damage that appears to have been caused by cold weather is the fault of this fungus and not the cold itself, particularly if the damage occurs at temperatures above 47 degrees.

Spray the palm with fungicide once a month in December, January, February and March. Make certain that you fully saturate the base of the palm making certain it gets down into the leaf sheaths and all the small suckers, as well as the soil itself. It is best to spray when the outside temperature is below 70 degrees.

These palms love filtered light or light morning sun. They also need plenty of water. Water 3 – 4 times a week. Use Miracle Grow fertilizer, in a very, very light application, twice a month wetting the leaves as well as drenching the soil.

Stop by our nursery for additional tips on successfully growing this palm.