



# **CABBAGE TREE**

***Ti kouka***  
***(Cordyline australis)***

**Sub  
Canopy  
10m**



**Description:**

- Found throughout lowland New Zealand in both swamps and dryland. Cabbage tree is part of the asparagus family.
- Branches emerge from a growing crown which in turn form leafy crowns themselves. The bark is cork like.

**Flowers and Fruit:**

- White, sweet smelling flowers are clustered together to form a drooping panicle. Mid spring to summer.
- White / purple berries, hanging like grapes, are ripe from late summer. Food for the birds.
- Biennial bearing is common. That is heavy flowering one year, sparse the next

**Pests and Diseases:**

- Cabbage trees are vulnerable to *cabbage tree sudden death syndrome*. The cause is unknown.
- The larvae of native moths feed on unopened leaves. Creating holes.

**Uses:**

- High in sugar, the roots are a valuable food source.
- The leaves, like flax, are useful for weaving