



NIKAU PALM

(*Rhopalostylis sapida*)

Sub-
Canopy
10m



Description:

- The southern most palm in the world. It is New Zealand's only example of a palm.
- Nikau occur in coastal and mild inland forests. The Heaphy track in the South Island west coast is famous for nikau growing right down into the sandy beaches.
- The green trunks, ringed by old leaf scars, are topped by fronds protruding from a bulbous base. Think of a feather duster.
- They are slow growing and prefer shelter from strong winds.

Fruit & Flowers:

- In the spring masses of lilac /pink flowers cascade from the base of the bulb atop the trunk.
- The subsequent red fruit, containing a single ovoid seed, are ready for the birds in the late summer – early autumn.
- Viable seed can sometimes be difficult to obtain due to weevil attack.

Uses:

- Planted in a warm sheltered position Nikau are a popular option in tropical garden landscapes