**Phoenix reclinata** N. von Jacquin

*Reclinata Palm*

*(Phoenix abyssinica, Phoenix leonensis, Phoenix pomila, Phoenix pumila, Phoenix spinosa)*

- African Wild Date Palm, Senegal Date Palm or Wild Date Palm.
- *Phoenix reclinata* is another popular tropical landscape palm that forms a handsome cluster of upward arching slender trunks 15’ to 20’ (25’) tall; unfortunately it is not hardy to freezes; Reclinata Palm is useful only in very protected locations in USDA cold hardiness zone 9b or tropical zones 10 and 11; the graceful feathery fronds can reach 10’ long and clumps may contain as many as twenty slender graceful trunks.
- This African species thrives in hot conditions; plants offer drought tolerance, but not much cold tolerance; well drained soils are needed; where cold hardy it is easily grown in a sunny location.
- Hybrids between *P. reclinata* × *P. dactylifera* are slowly becoming available in the trade and offer a more cold hardy plant with the strongly spreading multi-trunk form of *P. reclinata*; these hybrids are probably useful into USDA zone 9a, but need to be more widely tested in our region to be sure.
- *Phoenix theophrasti* Greuter, the Cretan Date Palm, offers a smaller 20’ to 25’ tall version of *P. dactylifera* with a cluster forming trunk topped with blue-green foliage; fruit are smaller than *P. dactylifera* and considered inedible and inflorescences are more erect than those of *P. dactylifera*; this Mediterranean palm from Crete and Turkey is reported to be cold hardy in USDA zones 8b to 11, tolerates drought and hot sunny locations, and will grow in a variety of soils as long as they are well drained; this species deserves greater testing in our region.

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