

Friday, May 12, 2023

Cuban Royal Palm

Leaving the wisteria-covered arbor and heading toward the waterfall amid monstera plants, we come across a century-old palm tree of monumental stature; in fact, its scientific name is *Roystonea regia*, a reference to its regal appearance. Its trunk, which can reach up to 30 meters in height, is smooth and gray in color, resembling a column. Its fronds are feathery and bright green. When the flowers bloom and the spathe opens, it produces a sound that can be heard from a great distance.

Cuban royal palm is native to Cuba, where it grows in coastal areas and is capable of withstanding hurricane-force winds. In the Caribbean, it is a highly useful plant: its trunk is used to make planks, its leaves are used to thatch roofs, and its pods serve as wrappers for Cuban tobacco; its seeds serve as feed for livestock. In the palm tree collection at La Concepción, there is a row of 32 specimens.

Interesting fact: It is the national tree of Cuba and is featured on its coat of arms.



Jubaea chilensis