

How to Protect Your Palm in Winter

Greg from Grimsby shared his technique for over wintering a Trachycarpus (Windmill) Palm in his back yard. He used some methods described in the book "Palms Won't Grow Here and Other Myths" by David A. Franco, Timber Press 2003.

After applying Bordo (a fungicide) to the crown, the palm is bundled up in late-November or December (depending on the forecast) with mini-lights, (to be used later if temperatures dip below about -8C to -10C) netting and a rose cone around the base. Then poles are inserted far enough away from this bundle to allow for an air gap between it and the next layer which consists of several layers of an insulating fabric. If the temperature dips below about -8C to -10C the lights are turned on with a timer set to cycle 20 minutes on 20 minutes off (to avoid "cooking" the palm).

While it sounds like a great deal of effort, Greg says it takes him about 45 minutes. The payoff is that the new leaves on his Palm are growing about an inch per week.



Nov. 2008



Winter 2009



April 2009



June 2009