

# Acai Palm

Kendra Thom

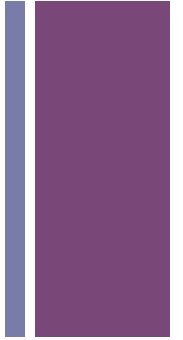


# Classification

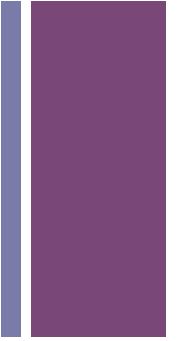


- Kingdom: Plantae
- Order: Arecales
- Family: Arecaceae/Palmae
  - Date palm, coconut palm
- Genus: Euterpe
- Species: *Euterpe oleracea*
- Common Name: Acai Berry

# + Morphology



- Slender, multi-stemmed (4-8 stems) palm that grows in shady areas
- Reaches heights between 50-100 ft.
- Single root system
- Pinnate (feather like) palm leaves up to 3 m. long





# Acai Berries



- Small round drupe
- approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter with a single seed in the center
- Green colored when they emerge, then ripen into their deep purple color
- Branched panicles of 500-900 fruits





- [illegible]



# Cultivation



- Trees take about 4-5 years to start producing fruit
- Cultivation occurs twice a year during July & December, the dry time of year
- Farming villages harvest the berries and send berries in baskets to local markets and manufacturers
- Berries have short lifespan, once picked, berries must be processed within 24 hours





# Plant Uses



## ■ Seeds:

- Ground up for livestock feed, component of organic soil for plants
- Also planted to grow new palm tree stock

## ■ Trunk:

- Building Construction

## ■ Leaves:

- Hats, mats, baskets, brooms, roof thatch for homes



# Plant Uses



## ■ Berries

- Food Product
- Dietary Supplement
- Acai Oil
  - Contrast dye for magnetic resonance imaging
  - Cooking
  - Salad dressing
  - Cosmetics
  - Skin moisturizers

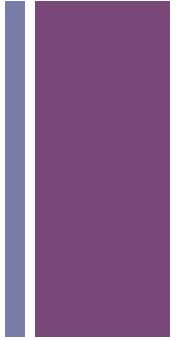
# + Acai Berries “Super Food”

## ■ Health:

- Aids in weightloss
- Heart Health
- Digestion
- Skin Health
- Cellular Health
- Immunity Boost
- Anti-Aging
- Mental Function
- Energy Boost
- Prevents Cancer
- Reduces Cholesterol



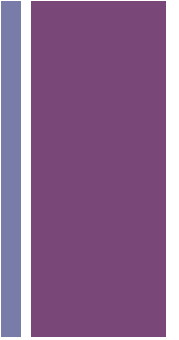
# + Uses in North America



- Grown in Southern Florida
  - Susceptible to frost
- Acai Oil
- Health Supplement
  - Drinks, smoothies, food



# Historical Facts



- Amazonian Tribes consumed Acai berries as an energy supplement before hunting exertions





# References



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