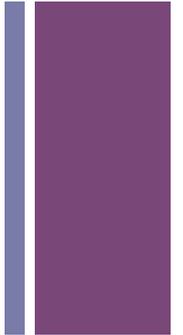


Acai Palm

Kendra Thom

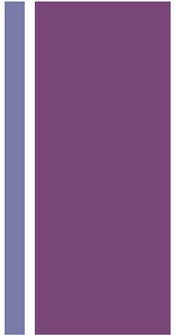


Classification

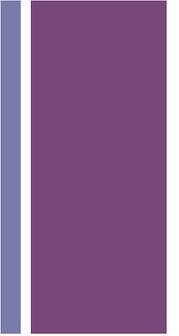


- Kingdom: Plantae
- Order: Arecales
- Family: Arecaceae/Palmae
 - Date palm, coconut palm
- Genus: *Euterpe*
- Species: *Euterpe oleracea*
- Common Name: Acai Berry

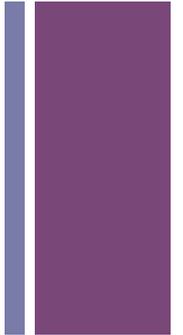
+ Morphology



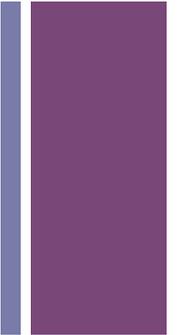
- Slender, multi-stemmed (4-8 stems) palm that grows in shady areas
- Reaches heights between 50-100 ft.
- Single root system
- Pinnate (feather like) palm leaves up to 3 m. long



+ 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



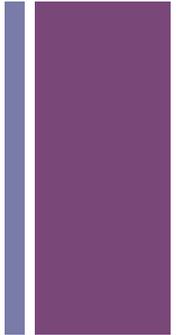


Geography

- Acai originated in South and Central America.
- Found commonly in regularly flooded regions of rainforests and along lowland river edges
- Introduced to the western world in the 1990s.
- Mostly found in Amazon Rainforest

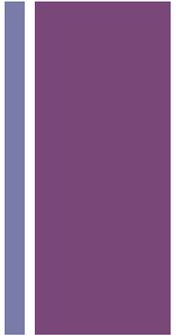


+ Cultivation



- 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

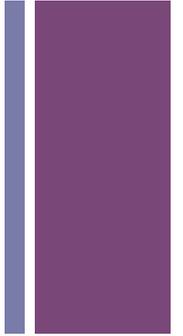
■ Trunk:

- 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

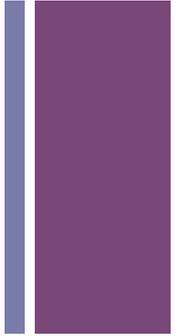
+ Acai Berries “Super Food”

■ Health:

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



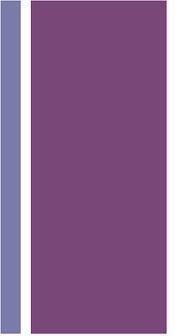
+ Uses in North America



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

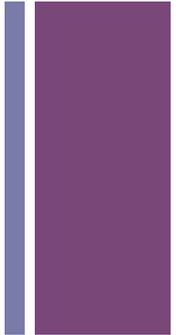
+ Historical Facts

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





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