

ber gloves should be used when handling treated plants within 2 days following treatment. Rubber gloves and boots should be used if contacting treated soil up to 10 days after treatment.

Preventing nematode problems by using plant sanitation procedures is usually easier and more economical than chemically treating a severe nematode problem. Clean seed planted in soil that has been sterilized by dry heat, steam, or chemical treatment is the basis for producing nematode free plants. Such plants should be grown when possible in clean containers out of contact with untreated soil.

#### References

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## The Gold-Plated Imitation Date Tree

EVELYN CHING

A palm tree recently made newspaper headlines in Orange County, California. While the publicity was not all favorable, it at least focused attention on palms as landscaping specimens of great value — monetarily as well as aesthetically. And plain folks who had thought of palms as “the tall skinny ones” (*Washingtonia robusta*) or “pineapple palms” (*Phoenix canariensis*) now speak knowingly of “reclinatas.”

It all came about with the completion of the Angel Baseball Stadium in Anaheim. The stadium is beautifully built, well planned, but became of necessity in deference to the automobile a huge concrete structure surrounded by acres of asphalt parking area. And because people here have become very “landscaping conscious,” the Anaheim city fathers knew that something had to be

done over and above a few well-placed olive trees and some minimum-maintenance greenery at the entrances.

A fountain was suggested. But a fountain in scale with the stadium would have cost at least \$50,000 plus daily maintenance by two men. (It seems people throw lots of things into fountains besides coins.) At this point Dick Kamphefner and Paul Saito of the Anaheim City Park Department stepped into the picture. They had seen large palm groups used effectively in conjunction with major structures and at far less cost than the proposed fountain. Armed with pictures and prices of the *Phoenix reclinata* groups planted at the Los Angeles International Airport, of an enormous *Chamaerops humilis* at Long Beach, and of another *Chamaerops* at Glendale Federal Savings and Loan



1. The "Gold-Plated Imitation Date Tree" (*Phoenix reclinata*) recently planted at Anaheim Stadium. Photo by Ken Foster.

Branch, they convinced the City Council that a large group, while not inexpensive, would be most economical both for initial cost and subsequent upkeep. Pride and a competitive attitude toward Los Angeles probably also contributed to their choice.

Through George Miyasako, who

makes a business of supplying very large specimens, a suitable group was located. It was a *Phoenix reclinata* which was on the original Cecil B. DeMille estate near Ferndale Park and the Greek Theater in Los Angeles. The palm was estimated to be over 100 years old, although no one could be found

who actually knew anything about its origin or history.

The specimen stands forty-five feet tall and has ten major trunks. Mr. Miyasako reports that there were ten other trunks that have been cut off for at least twenty-nine years, and that they were as large in diameter as those now standing. Around the cut-off trunks are many pups, and in one instance a seed apparently has dropped in the center of a stump and is growing. It looks as though the original stump were sprouting from the middle.

On June 17, 1966, the tree was boxed at the site and the next day tied and braced. The inside measurements of the box were nine feet square by seven feet deep, and the whole thing weighed twenty-two tons. A 40-ton crane came in to move it, but the uphill nature of the site, the narrow access and the height of the palm group broke this crane so that a 100-ton crane had to be brought in. The palm was finally lifted, loaded, slanted back, and trucked some twenty-five miles to the stadium. The route, using surface streets, necessitated layout and permit by the California State Highway officials. The actual moving time took only two hours, but it cost \$3,200.

Meanwhile, back in Anaheim the large concrete planter had been prepared with sand, nitrolized redwood shavings and chicken manure. Then on June 18th, with palm in place, all concerned stood back to admire their achievement. For \$7,600 they had a unique, historic and unusual ornament at the stadium entrance. It was guaranteed by Mr. Miyasako for one year and valued at \$15,000.

Reporters for the local papers were there, too, with notebooks and cameras to report what the City Council had wrought. Their pictures, descriptions and statistics were duly published. One



2. View of the multiple trunks and crowns of the Anaheim *Phoenix reclinata*. Photo by Ken Foster.

fact, however, had been overlooked: the sensitivity of the taxpayer's wallet when it comes to anything as ephemeral as beauty. Editorials flayed the City Council, lampooned the Park Department, and had some acid things to say about who sold the city what at the taxpayers' expense. Letters to the editor were even more critical: "a gold-plated imitation date tree . . ." and "the thorns are for the taxpayer who is really stuck." A few wrote to praise, but the nay-sayers write more letters and were in the majority.

Of course by now the shouting has died down and like all controversial beautification the whole matter has assumed its proper proportions. Because of the original publicity, however, ordinary tourists and visiting firemen alike wanted to have their pictures taken with the \$15,000 palm tree. To discourage not only children but also adults who were climbing into the tree for pictures, several *P. reclinata* in fifteen-gallon containers had to be planted around the base of the original group. (As a barrier they work!)

It is a credit to the resilience of the Council and the Park Department that Anaheim's new tax-supported Convention Center will also have a palm as the center of attraction — an old and very beautiful *Chamaerops humilis*.