

Photo Feature – Nypa fruticans

This palm, the lone species from an ancient lineage, demonstrates its unique reproductive characters. The showy catkin-like male inflorescence and the clustering carpels of the female flower produce a large, tightly packed head of fruit reminiscent of a satin-finished wood carving. A mangrove palm that prefers warm, humid tropical regions, *Nypa* relies on saltwater not only to provide its heavy moisture requirements but to distribute its floating seeds. Although the *Nypa* reproduces prolifically in Asia and the western Pacific, Montgomery Botanical Center in Miami, Florida, is the only place in the USA reporting successful propagation of the plant.

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