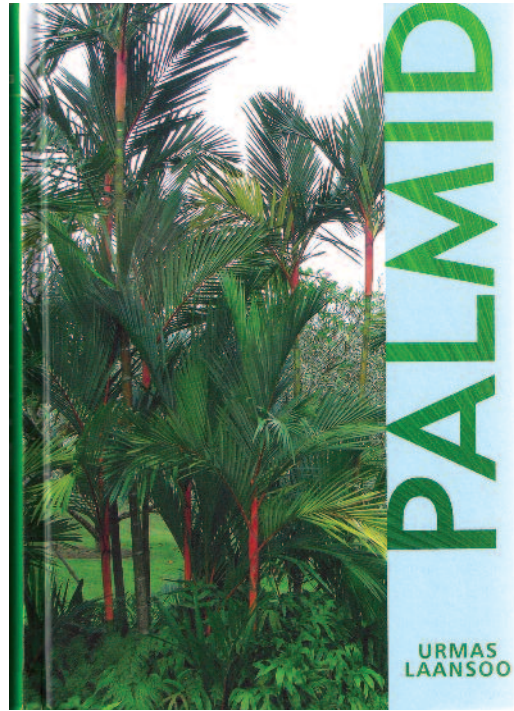


PALM LITERATURE

PALMID – U. Laansoo, Kirjastus Varrak, Tallinn, Estonia. 2014. Pp 352, numerous photographs. Price €27.70, presumably available from the publisher.

This is a beautifully produced book, elegantly designed and filled with photographs and is the first book devoted to palms in Estonian. I have relied on the description of the book I received by email from the author with whom I have corresponded for several years, as Estonian is beyond my linguistic capabilities! Clearly there is a great deal of information about palms in the book. Unlike most palm books that describe palms genus by genus in alphabetical order, this book deals with palms differently. There are chapters on palm regions, most species rich genera, changes in palm systematics, palms as symbols, palms as national trees, record breaking palms, the significance of palms in the world, plants that are called palms but are not, how to grow palms at home, winter hardy palms, the most popular palms of the world, holy palms, the most unusual palms, red palms, the smallest and tallest palms, the most important palms, monotypic genera, the rarest palms and those that are extinct in the wild and palm species described in the 21st Century. It provides a guide to where to go to see palms and lists palm societies and clubs and important books about palms. A glossary of palm terms is provided and palm names in Estonian are



provided with their Latin equivalents. This lovely book should open up the world of palms to fellow Estonians. The author is to be congratulated on a fine publication.

JOHN DRANSFIELD
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK