

CAMPUS ARBORETUM



Focus on:
Sabal uresana
"Sonoran palmetto"
Arecaceae



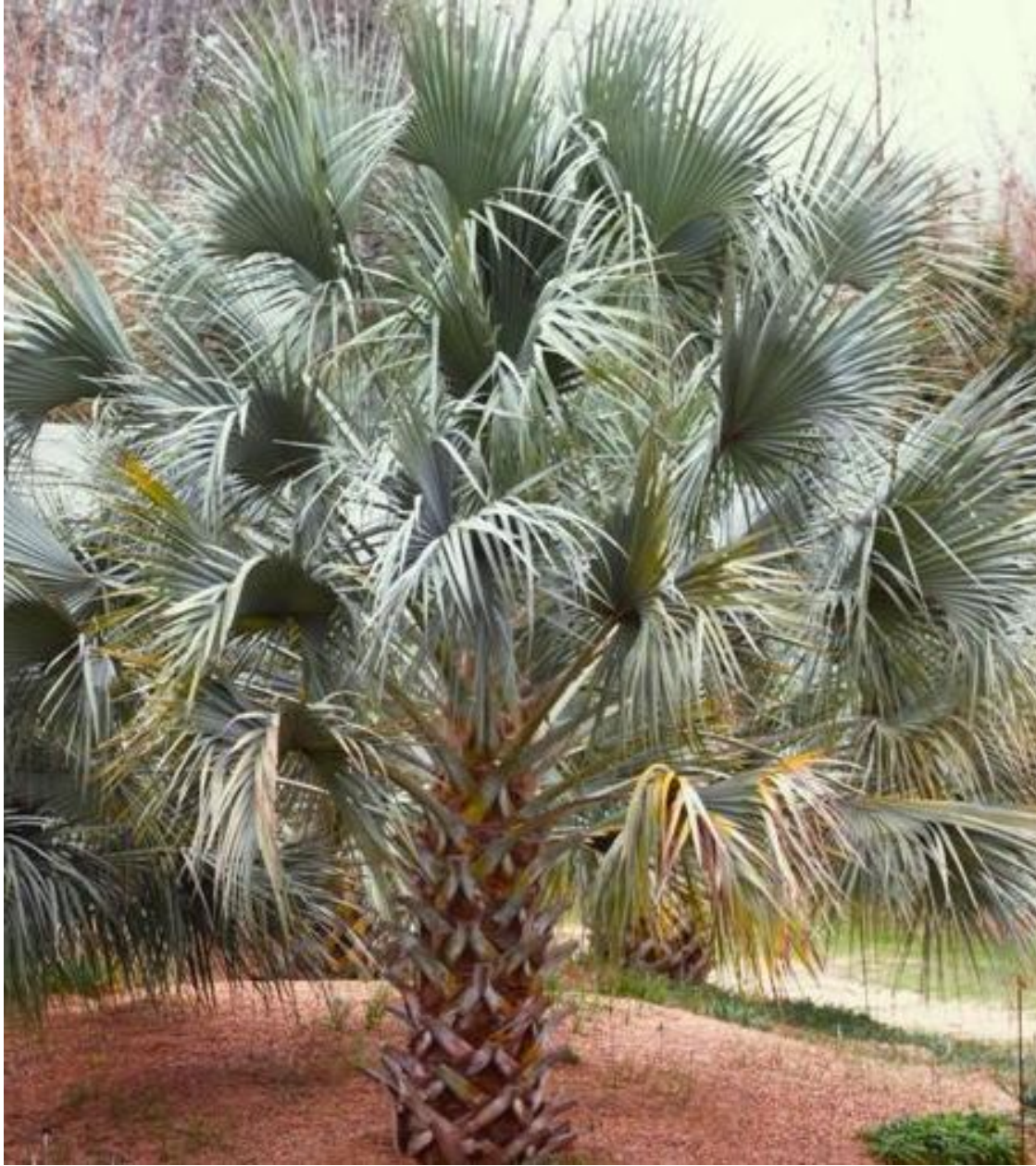
As you may be enjoying the cooler evenings outside this month, think about a tree that adds a tropical feel without risking chilling injury or heat stress. That's right – if ever there was a nearly indestructible palm tree, *Sabal uresana* may be it! This desert adapted fan palm tree grows to heights of 30- 60 ft tall with a dark brown, usually single/unbranched trunk, topped with 6' x 3' palmately compound blue-green leaves connected by smooth petioles in a twisted (corkscrew) configuration. The leaves of all members of the *Sabal* genus are costapalmate. This means their leaflets are joined together and attach along a costa, which is an extension of the petiole, into the leaf blade. This is typical for members of the *Sabal* genus. Creamy 1-inch long cup-shaped flowers appear in a large cluster from the base of the foliage during spring, followed by black drupes. An endemic palm, confined to northwest Mexico at elevations less than 4000 ft. The name "uresana" refers to Ures, Mexico, where the plant is quite common. Plants are adapted to a wide range of climates extended north and south of its origin tolerating both hot coastal and inland areas, full sun and drying winds in open and exposed sites and even

severe frosts.

To learn more, visit this Campus Arboretum Species Description Page found at:
<https://apps.cals.arizona.edu/arboretum/taxon.aspx?id=256>



(Above) *Sabal uresana* growing in San Diego Botanic Garden
Photo credit: K M <https://www.flickr.com/photos/131880272@N06/50513574608>



(Above) Blue-green characteristic of the leaves is beautiful! Because of its wide adaptation to environmental factors, this palm is a good alternative to *Brahea armata* or *Bismarckia nobilis* if a striking blue vertical accept in the landscape.

Photo source: <https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/52750-sabal-uresana-varieties-cold-hardiness/>



(Above) Huge 6' x 3' palmately compound, costapalmate leaves.
(Below) Black drupes drying before seed harvesting.



Thanks for joining me on my journey to see and understand trees! The health of the planet and our fellow humans depends on respectful and understanding tree selection choices. I hope you're inspired to deepen the connection by visiting campus, and using the [interactive arboretum map](#) to find the tree featured in this spotlight for a more immersive education and sensory experience.

Enjoy!



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