

BREAKING NEWS

PALMS ARE NOT TRUE TREES! YOU DO NOT NEED A PERMIT TO REMOVE PALMS!

Palms do not meet the current City of Vancouver Tree Bylaw definition of a tree. As a result of Arbutus Tree Service research, Arbutus made an application to COV to remove palms from protection of the Tree Bylaw. This application was approved saving taxpayer's money, creating a better urban forest for Vancouver, and simplifying the work process at the COV tree department, which they really need. Tree permits will not be required to remove palms, unless they are part of a previously approved permit, such as a tree permit, tree plan, or landscape plan.

In Vancouver, typically only windmill palms (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) are suitable for the climate. Windmill palms do not offer nearly the same amount of canopy coverage compared to many other trees we see around the city. Tree canopies provide shading, reduce the urban heat island effect, provide habitat for birds, and do much more!

The City of Vancouver is currently in the process of confirming the revised Replacement Tree List in the Tree Bylaw and Windmill Palms have been removed from the list.

Palms are monocots and have more in common biologically with grasses than with hardwood trees. Palms do not have secondary meristem, causing no secondary growth, which means the absence of a cambium layer or growth rings of xylem. The stem is considered "woody", but it differs anatomically from the wood of hardwood and conifer trees.

No more will 100 ft Douglas-firs, cedars, hemlocks be removed and replaced by palms!