



TREE SPECIES (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Ceroxylon alpinum

ENGLISH COMMON NAME

Wax palm

COLOMBIAN COMMON NAME

Palma de cera, Palma blanca, Palma real, Chonta

TREE FAMILY

ARECACEAE

AVERAGE LEAF SIZE (CM)

75-125cm × 80cm
Length Width

DISTRIBUTION



NATIVE TO COLOMBIA

ELEVATIONAL RANGE (M)

1400-2000m

TREE HEIGHT

LARGE (> 35M)



NATIVE TO

Region: Americas

Latin America: Colombia, Venezuela

Colombia: Antioquia, Caldas, Cundinamarca, Quindío, Risaralda

COFFEE AGROFORESTRY INFORMATION

COFFEE SYSTEM



ARABICA

COFFEE IMPACT

Unknown

TREE MANAGEMENT

Propagated by seeds. It grows slowly and is usually found in solitary stands.

CULTIVATION



PLANTED



NATURAL

TREE BENEFITS AND USES

FARMER USES



Livestock Forage, Lumber, Ceremonial

Fruits are consumed by pigs. Ceremonially, the leaves were used for Palm Sunday. Used to adorn and decorate spaces. Used in the construction of fences and walls.

FARM SERVICES



Coffee Shade, Carbon Capture

Shade. Capture and storage of atmospheric carbon.

BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS

✓ YES

Attracts seed dispersers, Attracts pollinators. Fruits are consumed by birds like toucans, thrushes, parrots, among others, as well as mammals like agoutis, squirrels, and bats.

Last Updated: February 20, 2025

Plants of the World Online (POWO). (2024). Plants of the World Online. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet. Retrieved from <http://www.plantsoftheworldonline.org/>; International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). (2024). IUCN Red List. Published on the Internet. Retrieved from <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>; Fern, Ken (2024). Tropical Plants Database. Published on the Internet. Retrieved from <https://tropical.thefems.info/>; Universidad EIA. (2024). Catálogo virtual de Flora del Valle de Aburrá. Published on the Internet. Retrieved from <https://catalogofloravalleaburra.eia.edu.co/>; World Flora Online. (2024). World Flora Online. Published on the Internet. Retrieved from <https://www.worldfloraonline.org/>; Universidad Nacional de Colombia. (2024). Nombres Comunes de las Plantas de Colombia. Published on the Internet. Retrieved from <http://www.biovirtual.unal.edu.co/nombrescomunes/es/>; Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). (2024). GBIF. Published on the Internet. Retrieved from <https://www.gbif.org/es/>; CAR (2020). Plan de manejo y conservación de la Palma real (Ceroxylon alpinum Bonpl. Ex DC.) en la jurisdicción CAR Giraldo P, Laina A, López JH, Aguirre JF, Toro J. (2009). Café, una alternativa para la Conservación. Wildlife Conservation Society, WWF Colombia, Asociación Red Colombiana de Reservas Naturales de la Sociedad Civil, Federación Nacional de Cafeteros de Colombia