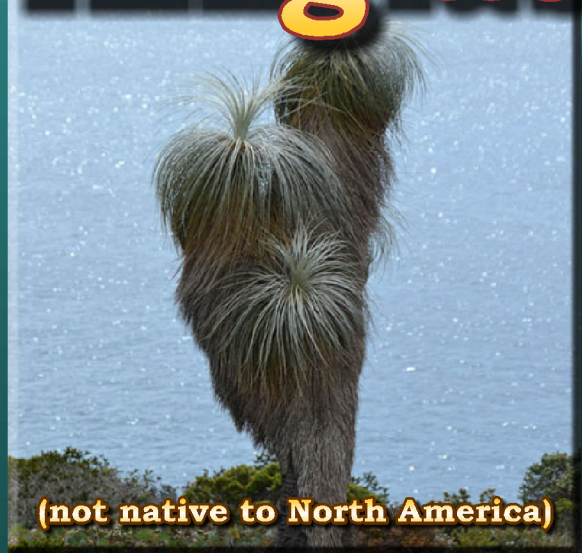


# ARECALES (Palms)

## Palms



## Kingias



(not native to North America)

# Family **ARECACEAE** (Palms)

## California Fan Palm (*Washingtonia filifera*)



**rare habitat**

Gold Butte; Bunkerville, NV



**petiole spines**



**March**

Overton Wildlife Management Area; Overton, NV



**cloaked trunk**

Rogers Spring; Lk Mead NRA



**shady fronds**

Overton WMA; Overton, NV

- Flowers:** tubular; 3-lobed; dense clusters; white; .5"
- Stems:** tall and straight; unbranched; fibrous, cloaked by dead fronds; gray to tan; 60-80'
- Leaves:** palmate; marginal spines on **green**, 6' petioles; rosette; fibrous filaments on leaflets; **L:** 13' **W:** 6'
- Blooms:** May to June
- Range:** southwestern US, northwestern MEX (naturalized elsewhere)
- Habitat:** alkaline soils; desert riparian areas (springs, streams, oases, etc); Lower Sonoran Life Zone

### Notes:

rare; evergreen perennial; grows to 80' (usually much less) in the sw US from the Colorado Desert of s CA east through the Mojave Desert to AZ, and south into Baja, MEX, at elevations of 500-1,000'; only palm native to the sw US (in isolated areas, otherwise considered to be invasive outside its natural oases occurrences), and second tallest in US (to the **Florida Royal Palm**); not a true tree (actually closer related to the grass family); produces exposed clusters of elliptical black berries with hard, nut-like **seeds** (not figs) surrounded by sweet pulp; aka **Desert Fan Palm**, **Petticoat Palm**; important cover for barn owls, beetles, bats, etc., and the seeds are eaten by birds and mammals; native peoples planted the palm for shade, used the fronds for thatching and cordage, and ate the pulp of the seeds; widely cultivated as a hardy ornamental in urban areas

**Mojave presence:** native (rare)