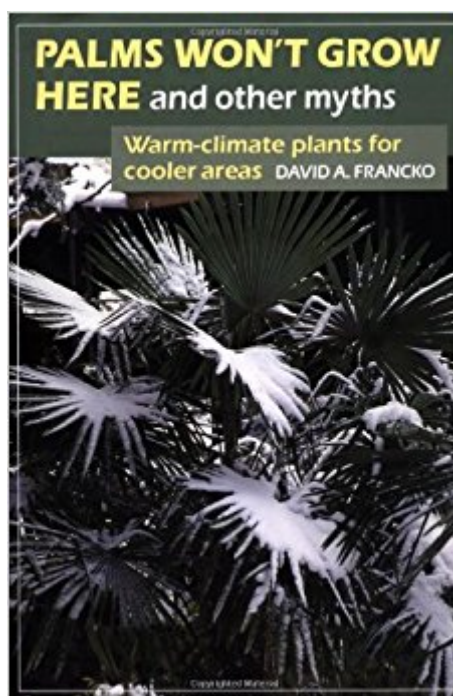


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# Palms Won't Grow Here And Other Myths: Warm-Climate Plants For Cooler Areas



## Synopsis

Palms that grow in Canada? Bananas that overwinter in Michigan? How about southern crape myrtles that flower in Birmingham, England, instead of Birmingham, Alabama? Although the voice of authority --- and nursery labels --- might say, "You can't grow those plants here," author Dave Francko has a different message for gardeners: "Plants can't read the information on their tags." Laced with humorous anecdotes and based on years of first-hand observations and research, this book provides real-world information to help adventurous gardeners grow plants they never before dreamed possible. Nobody who reads this book will ever look at a plant label the same way again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An irresistible title combined with Francko's solid credentials--as a scientist, botany professor, and, moreover, a zealous gardener--should signal to other keen gardeners that here is someone who understands the desire to push the proverbial envelope when it comes to selecting plant material for the garden. In a wonderfully forthright style, Francko sets about defining warm-climate plants and offering advice on how to grow such specimens in temperate climates. Green thumbs of varying abilities will find the guidance to introduce unusual species, as Francko arms readers with the know-how to acclimate plants; identify microclimates; choose companion plants; and provide for adequate culture and care of cold-hardy palms as well as a wealth of architectural evergreens, deciduous trees and shrubs, and exotics. With this highly readable guide in hand, plant lovers can look forward to the challenge and the prospect of animating their gardens with a new and expanded

palette of exciting possibilities. Alice Joyce Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

"A 'must-have' book for the adventurous gardener. . . . The definitive text for those not afraid to the push the envelope." -- Tamar Myers, The Temperate Zone Chapter of the International Palm Society  
"An indispensable, fun-to-read resource for amateur as well as seasoned gardeners. . . . David Francko's book will revolutionize your gardening ideas." -- Gerry McKiness, owner, Gerry's Jungle  
Witty and knowledgeable . . . [Francko] gives gardeners hope of having a garden singularly different from all others. -- '97; Joanne S. Carpender, The National Gardener Magazine, February 2003

It covers where others have successfully grown this sort of stuff, and what you have to do to replicate their success. This is one of the few where the 'look inside' feature gave me enough to make me comfortable in ordering this book. If you are in grow zones 4-7, you can grow some stuff that is normally say 8 or warmer... not guaranteeing your results, but if you are truly looking to push a few boundaries and grow what you always wanted to, this may indeed help (I grew up in 2a, it's now up to 3a there; and moved southwards and gained altitude the last few moves. We were recently classified as 6b, up a half... and I am within 2 hours drive of full grown palm trees and magnolias, grown with an eye to sheltering and microclimate...if they can, \*I\* can). The idea of growing a palm or palms is definitely something I wish to do; I am currently into Taro (Elephant Ears, Alocasia and Colocasia)... and learned the hard way that a Gunneria will NOT grow here, temperatures go too high in our summer and our sun and wind are just too brutal...(such a cool looking plant too, and they will not survive the winters) ... This is a very good book for pushing your warmer climate plants and making them happy out of their 'normal zone'. I do rate this as not for the totally inexperienced beginner gardener; you should be comfortable with being able to do some garden construction (cold frames, windbreaks, shade cloth), mulching, pest control, compost, and investing some TIME and EFFORT to get what you want. I am a competition grower in a microclimate pocket/niche zone; so this book fits right in with what I'm already familiar with... I do heartily recommend this book for the \$, if this is what interests you.

Love this book. The main reason is how the author clearly and in-depth, describes what cold hardiness really is and all the aspects involved. it's a LOT more than just temperatures. It is very well organized and written in a clear manner. He goes into depth into each palm, tree and shrub he

knows to be hardy, giving real world advice on how to successfully grow each, including warnings and limitations. He is honest about how he came to these conclusions and tells the reader when the information is an assumption and hasn't been tested. I would absolutely recommend this book for anyone trying to zone-push the plants he talks about and others, since the advice included covers most plants.

I have just developed an interest in subtropical gardening and spent much of the summer trying to create a tropical look in my yard with tropical plants that are supposed to survive in zone 7 with a little help. Most of this was based on browsing the Internet. I live on Cape Cod (zone 7) and growing tropical plants seems like an impossibility. I invested in windmill palms, a couple varieties of banana trees, bamboo and really had a great start over the summer. An arborist told me I was wasting my time, but I persisted and am very pleased with the results. However, after my summer work, it occurred to me that I wanted to do more than rely on the statements of cold hardy plant websites, and I discovered a number of references to this title. I had to wait a few weeks for it, but it was well worth it, and I wish I had it at the start of my new hobby. It goes into detail about providing for a plants needs throughout the winter in general, but also specifics about individual plants. It is well written, and a tremendous resource for the subtropical gardener. It would be much better if the pictures were in color, but I read it with an iPad in hand to look up pictures of various plants mentioned as I read it.

I bought this on for a friend....I had a copy I bought locally. I am an amatuer horticultureist and live in central Oklahoma. There are palms in my backyard now that have survived for over 5 years and are growing and reproducting. You just have to pick the right species for your USGA climate growing zone. Obviously there are many species that will not survive the Oklahoma climate because of low cold temps in the winter. Likewise for other US locations. But it is a good guide if you are interested in deciding what species you can use in your landscape regardless of where you are located.

Five stars! This is the definitive book on zone-pushing. An inspiring read and a must-have for adventurous gardeners trapped in less-than-tropical climes. Buy it. Read it. Apply the knowledge and bring the beauty of warm-climate plants to your yard and garden!

This book has a fantastic introduction to palm trees and how cold can harm them. The author's personal experience growing various types of cold-hardy palms in Ohio provides a wealth of

knowledge and inspiration to the northern gardener. The book details many of the common cold-hardy or nearly cold-hardy palm trees that can be grown in subtropical climates. I found the book fascinating and went through it all in two nights. Now I use it as a reference for refreshing my memory and motivating me to plant more.

I first found this book when I was at a library. I was in elementary school and I was shocked. It showed me that common knowledge isn't always true and people can assume facts. I have banana trees and palm trees that survive Ohio winters. This book is a must if you want to know how to do this.

Although this is an older book the science remains the same. A interesting read if you are a serious gardener. Discussion of various species (many plants, not just palms) and the mechanisms by which they survive cold temperatures is very helpful for those who like to experiment in the garden. Written in down to earth language. Very good.

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