



# Care Sheet for *Sabal minor* or “Dwarf Palmetto” in Virginia Landscapes

## Fact and Care Sheet for Virginia Gardens

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## Introduction

Native to the Southern United States, the *Sabal minor* or Dwarf Palmetto is a smaller and much shorter cousin to the familiar Sabal palmetto that lines the streets and palisades of cities in the Deep South, where the fronds were once cut to make ladies' hand fans. Part of the Dwarf Palmetto's native range includes the extreme southeastern portion of Virginia. As a result, *S. minor* is one of the most cold-hardy palms that can be grown in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

*S. minor* features evergreen, deep blue-green fanlike fronds of one to three feet in length, depending on the age of the plant. A shrubby, clumping palm, it may form short trunks of one to three feet after many years of growth. At maturity, *S. minor* can range from six to eight feet tall and wide.

Many specimens have endured Zone 7 and lower winter temperatures and being covered in thick ice and deep snow with little or no damage. Given the proper conditions and period of establishment, *S. minor* should be hardy throughout all Virginia zones. (See Resources, below, to determine your USDA Zone.)