

Cabbage Palm

Livistona australis



Adaptation to environment

- Very large leaves collect sunlight in shady swamp
- Leaf stalks with sharp curved spines for protection from leaf feeders & tree climbers (probably more useful adaptation in time of prehistoric megafauna)
- Growing shoot protected by crown of spiny leaf bases
- Very strong, straight, fibrous trunk
- Can tolerate roots under water (even if slightly salty) & survives dry periods.

Feeding relationships

Where do I live? Swamp

What eats me?

- Caterpillars, grasshoppers eat leaves
- Flying foxes, Brush Turkey, pigeons eat fruit & flowers
- Aboriginal people cut out & ate cabbage-like heart of new growth; “tree cabbage” collected and eaten by early European maritime explorers.

- Palm 20 m tall
- Leaves fan-shaped, 1-2 m long with 70 folded segments
- Old leaves turn brown and hang on trunk
- Aboriginal people used leaves for making bags, baskets, fishing nets & lines, roofs.