

Dwarf Fan Palm	<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	Ġummara
Common English name	Scientific name	Maltese name

Where is this tree found in the world – (Species Distribution)

It is the only palm species native to Southern Europe, northwest Africa and eastward to Turkey.

What is the preferred habitat for this tree?

It grows in scrubland and coastal garigue. It prefers dry or moist soil and can tolerate drought.

Is it green all year (evergreen), or does it change according to the season (deciduous)?

It is evergreen.

How tall can it grow? (height)

It may grow to a max of 3m usually.

What are the leaves and flowers like?

It is a bushy palm with fan-shaped fronds with stiff, strongly toothed stalks. The flowers bloom from April to June. The bright yellow wind-pollinated flowers are either male or female, but both sexes can be found on the same plant.



What are the fruits like?

The spherical to oblong fruits, 1-1.5cm in diameter, maybe yellow, orange, or brown when ripe.



What do humans use this tree for?

As it is one of the most cold-tolerant palms, it is used for landscaping in temperate Mediterranean climates.

Does this tree have legal protection?

It is protected within protected areas, in areas outside the development zone (ODZ), in green places, and natural or rural/green enclaves in urban areas (development zone), or urban public open spaces (according to the ERA 2018 list of trees and woodland protection regulations).