



SCREW PINE

Pandanus utilis

Screwpine Family (Pandanaceae)

Zones: 9-11

Full Sun to Partial Shade

High Water

Location: Visitor Center

As you walk through the Visitor Center on your way out to tour the Garden, the *Pandanus utilis* (Screwpine) can't help but grab your attention before you exit the east doors. It's the impressive and statuesque tree that looks like a palm whose leaves are growing in a spiral pattern. In actuality it is a large shrub or small tree that is native throughout the tropical and subtropical Pacific. When in its natural environment, it can withstand sea salt spray, drought, and high winds. You can see how it anchors itself by the aerial prop roots that are growing into the soil at the bottom of its trunk.

This tree is highly valued by people in the Pacific for its many uses, both practical and medicinal. Certain varieties of this tree have edible fruits; the stem is used in construction; and the leaves are used as garland and for weaving.

They thrive in full sun or part shade, but if they are growing in an area with higher than 70% shade, they stop flowering and fruiting. Although they are usually in areas with an average rainfall of between 60-160 inches, they can survive a moderately long drought. The Screwpine grows in a wide variety of coastal soils including sandy and rocky beaches, lava flows and textures from coralline sands and loams. Although it cannot thrive in standing water, it will tolerate seasonal waterlogging.

The specimen that we have here is very healthy has grown approximately 6 inches, and continues to put on new growth. Make sure you give it the attention it deserves the next time you are headed out for a stroll in the Garden!