



newsletter



NIKAU POINTS WHICH MAY SURPRISE

takana sells more Nikau than any other species. We try to carry them in all sizes from 25L up. Our specialty is Pitt Island Nikau (ALL grown from seed from Pitt Island), but we also carry a lovely mainland selection.



All New Zealand Nikau are designated *Rhopalostylis sapida*, but 'selections' vary considerably. Pitt Island Nikau have proven to be the most sought after selection across the country. Pitt Island is the southernmost Chatham Island, 12 km south of the rest of the group, with about thirty inhabitants. Pitt Island Nikau are notably hardier than most mainland selections. With thicker trunks, and especially wind tolerant, the leaf, frond, and overall shape is also superior to other Nikau. They grow faster and more vigorously, and the seed is bigger.

Selections from locations such as Banks Peninsula, Punakaiki, and the Hauraki Gulf Islands range in quality. Some of the Gulf Island Nikau, especially Great Barrier, have been susceptible to a brown foliage rust. Waitakere Nikau tend to be poorer examples of the species. Most mainland selections seem to be more accustomed to sheltered, fertile valleys, rather than to poorer soils and subsection to harsh winds. Kermadec and Norfolk Island Nikau (*Rhopalostylis bauerii*) are a different type.

Buyers need to be aware that Pitt Island Nikau will be cross-pollinated by bees which have visited other native Nikau in a 10km or more radius. Pitt Island Nikau are only guaranteed pure if the seed is sourced direct from the island, and not from Pitt Nikau grown elsewhere.

They're extraordinary native plants which offer much visual pleasure in plantings. We love them so we keep loads and loads of them. Call in and pick a few out, or phone if you're concerned over stock levels for major projects.