

# Ponytail palm

## Beaucarnea recurvata

### Elephant's foot



The **Ponytail Palm**, also known as **Beaucarnea Recurvata**, or **Nolina** is a distinctive looking houseplant with a swollen thick brown stem at its base that stores water. The long narrow curly, dark green leaves flow up from this base much like a plume of water in a fountain.

Dr. Hessayon describes this houseplant as "A curiosity rather than a thing of beauty" however we are more inclined to say it's both. Very young, and small plants look like large rocks sprouting leaves, but as it ages the plant gradually becomes significantly taller. This more mature look has an appearance which in our opinion better resembles a miniature Willow tree. Elegant, curious and beautiful.

It hails natively from the dry regions of Mexico, and the ability to hold water in the bulbous trunk is an adaptation of coming from such an arid place.

Although able to survive with little water and care, it does best if watered frequently and as the plant is very slow-growing anyway it's a good idea not to treat it poorly if you can help it.

These are super tactile plants and the leaves just invite you to run your fingers through them. The good news is that they'll put up with a bit of affection like this from time to time and they're not toxic to people or animals. That said, all of this plant can look like a fun play toy for your cat. The brown stem resembles a scratching post and the ribbon-like leaves can be irresistible for playful cats. Keep your Ponytail Palm away from your pets for your plant's health and good looks.



These are very slow-growing houseplants which tend to make them more expensive than other plants of a similar size. Small young plants will be reasonably priced, but more impressive looking plants will be significantly more. They make a good statement plant and can live for decades if treated properly so it can be a good investment.

The Ponytail Palm is so well adapted to storing water, you may find it listed as either a succulent or a foliage plant. In temperate regions of the world, it may be sold as a garden rather than an indoor plant.

Although two plants can grow differently and end up looking quite different in respect of the shape and size of the swollen thick brown stem, it has no significant varieties or cultivars to pick from. Only buy plants called *Beaucarnea recurvata*, or *Nolina "Recurvata"*.

