

CABBAGE TREE - Ti kouka

Cordyline australis

401



Ti kouka leaves were woven often for their toughness and ability to last a long time. Because its fibre doesn't shrink in water, the leaves were used for anchor ropes and strengthening fishing nets. Paraerae (sandals) were made from dried leaves as they were good for walking on rough ground and avoiding prickly plants.

ti kouka fun fact

each floret can
produce 40,000
seeds



Growth form

They have either single or multiple trunks with rough bark, and a tuft of green, sword-like leaves at the top. Trees can grow up to 15–20 m tall, with massive trunks up to 1.5 m wide.

Flowers

The flowering spike has a lot of tiny branches bearing thousands of tiny, white to pinkish brown flowers.

Distribution

After flowering little fruits form, changing from green to cream/blue as they ripen. Each fruit contains 3-6 black seeds which are coated to protect them from the digestion process in the stomach of birds.

It is said that their new, inner most leaves taste like cabbage when boiled up!