

Nikau

The world's most southern palm.

Nikau are very slow growing and the trunk appears when the tree is approximately 50 years old.
On average two fronds are shed per year.



Berries take 2 years to ripen. 1 year old berries are green and the red ones are ripe. Kereru just love them.

It is rumoured that as the berries are very hard they have, in the past, been used as shotgun pellets.

It is thought, that when Māori came to New Zealand, the nikau palm looked similar to the coconut trees and they called it Nikau, meaning without nuts.

Nīkau palms were used by Māori to thatch houses, to wrap food for cooking, as hats, mats, baskets and for leggings when travelling through rough undergrowth. The outer portion of the trunk, was used to make storage containers and pots. The hard berries were made into necklaces and sometimes eaten when green.