

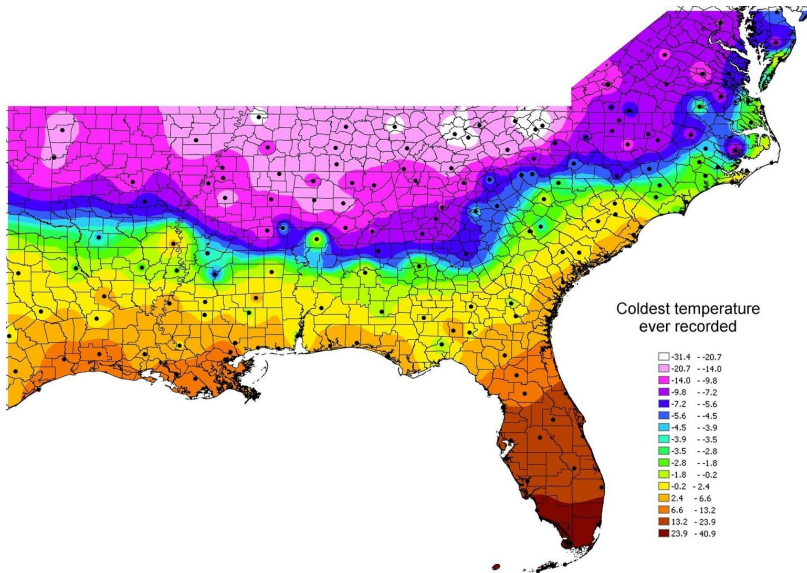
Restoration of Sabal Palmetto in North Carolina

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Climate and Record Low Temperatures of Selected Cities

City	USDA Hardiness Zone (°F)	Record Low (°F)
Atlantic Beach	8a (13.8°)	1° (1985)
Bald Head Island	8a (14.6)	3° (1989)
Buxton	9a (20.1)	6° (1985)
Jacksonville	8a (13.7)	-5° (1989)
Kure Beach	8a (14.2)	3° (1989)
Ocracoke	8b (18.8)	6° (N/A)
Shalotte	8a (14.3)	-4° (1989)
Wilmington	8a (14.2)	0° (1989)



City	Heat Zone
Atlantic Beach	6 46 - 60 > 86°F
Bald Head Island	North of Nature Preserve: 6 46 - 60 > 86°F South of Nature Preserve: 7 61 - 90 > 86°F
Buxton	1 <1 >86°F
Jacksonville	7 61 - 90 > 86°F
Kure Beach	North of Fort Fisher: 7 61 - 90 > 86°F South of Fort Fisher: 6 46 - 60 > 86°F
Ocracoke	5 31 - 42 > 86°F
Shalotte	7 61 - 90 > 86°F
Wilmington	7 61 - 90 > 86°F

Historical Range of Sabal Palmetto in North Carolina

1.) In Volume IV of the Garden and Forest 1891, a man named Wilber Fisk Massey wrote a letter to the original editor of the publication. Massey was an NC State professor and leader of the horticulture department.

It cannot be certified if Massey is referring to *Sabal palmetto* or simply just very large *Sabal minors* due to the fact that he never stated an official botanical/Latin name. But in my opinion, Massey was referring to a population of *Sabal palmetto* which grew rather inland for North Carolina's standards. I think this because he stated that they seem to have a height of over 18 feet tall. I have never witnessed or heard of *Sabal minors* in North Carolina reaching such lengths.

The Southern Interstate Exposition.

To the Editor of GARDEN AND FOREST :

Sir,—This exposition, now in progress at Raleigh, North Carolina, has some features of special interest to students of Horticulture and Forestry. From a number of states the exhibits of woods are good, North Carolina naturally leading in this respect. Some enormous sections of tree-trunks from the western mountains well illustrate the great wealth of that region in hard woods, while many articles of furniture show the beauty of the Maples, Walnuts, Ashes, Sycamores, Cherry and other woods. Among the exhibits from Florida are many products characteristic of that state. Among these a large number of pine-apples, fruited in pots, attract attention. In the North Carolina Agricultural Department there are shown two products illustrating the wide range of climate in the state. Two Palmetto-trees from Columbus County guard the entrance, and between them stands a Balsam Fir, from one of the high peaks of the west. The Palmettos were, unfortunately, simply cut down with an axe, instead of being dug up entire. They are, however, held in an upright position, and show trunks about eight feet high and a foot in diameter, while the beautiful crowns of leaves on their long stalks make the full height over eighteen feet. One who knows the slow growth of these trees cannot help regretting their destruction for a paltry five dollars each. The Florida people could hardly believe that Palmettos grew to such size in so high a northern latitude. Two of the North Carolina counties exhibited alligator skulls larger than anything in the Florida exhibit.

2.) The following reports come from the the accounts of Dr. Moses Ashley Curtis.

Curtis was a respected botanist who potentially reported both *Sabal palmetto* and *Sabal minor* on

Cape Hatteras. Curtis's use of vivid language to describe conceivably indigenous palms and his reports of both *Sabal palmetto* and *Sabal minor* make it clear to us that both species were present on Cape Hatteras when he visited.

"Palmetto. (Sabal Palmetto, R. & S.)—Cape Hatteras is, or was, the northern limit of this Palm, from whence southward it becomes more abundant in the vicinity of the Ocean. This is the only representative in the United States of a large and remarkable class of trees mostly confined to the Torrid Zone. A trunk 40 or 50 feet in height, of uniform diameter, with a tufted summit of large brilliant green, fan-shaped leaves, and so wholly different in structure and aspect from all our other forest trees, is a very noticeable and attractive object on our coast. The trunk of this tree is of great value in the construction of wharves, as they are not subject to injury from sea-worms. They have been found serviceable in structures for defense, since balls pass with difficulty through the wood as through cork, and the wood closes upon the perforation instead of splitting. The rarity of the tree in this State renders it of little economic importance here. It is to be deeply regretted, however, that a reckless indifference to the future, which has been charged as a characteristic of Americans, is likely to efface, at no very distant time, every vestige of this interesting ornament of our coast. The inner portion of the young plant is very tender and palatable, somewhat resembling the Artichoke and Cabbage in taste (hence its name of Cabbage Tree) and is often taken for pickling, and the stock is ruined by the process. Thus for a pound or two of pickles, no better either than many other kinds, the growth of half a century is destroyed in a moment, and posterity left to the wretched inheritance of vain mourning for the loss of the greatest beauty of our maritime forest."

"Dwarf Palmetto. (S. Adansonii, Guerns.) —This is but 3 or 4 feet high, never forming a trunk like the preceding, and found only in the Lower District. The leaves of both these species are employed in the manufacture of palm-leaf hats."

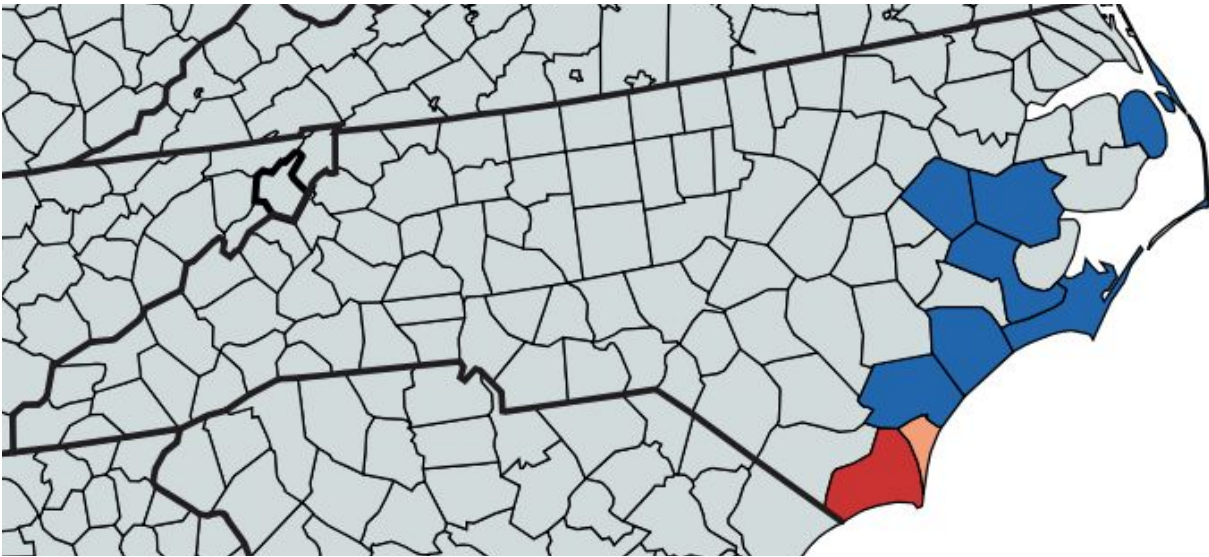
"Curtis, M. A. (Moses Ashley) 1860. Geological and Natural History Survey of North-Carolina, Part III, Botany"

3.) Published in 1897, *Timber Trees and Forest of North Carolina* indicates *Sabal palmetto* being native to Cape Hatteras. This book was written by Gifford Pinchot and W.W. Ashe for the North Carolina Geological Survey.

(Page 146) "The palmetto is confined to Cape Hatteras and Smith's Island"

Current Range

Red: Confirmed Native
Orange: Potentially Native
Blue: Naturalized/ Volunteer specimens in existence



Restoration

If the historical existence of *Sabal palmetto* north of Bald Head Island can be undeniably proven then I agree that restoration initiatives should be in implanted along the North Carolina coast, especially near Cape Hatteras.