

MEKA RĀKAU

# Nīkau

(Native Palm)

*Rhopalostylis sapida*

Sparklers



## MEKA RĀKAU

# Characteristics

The only palm tree native to Aotearoa, and the only palm tree this far south! No other palm gets found as far south as nīkau.

Palms are one of the most useful tree families in the world – they are a source of oil and food (including bananas and coconuts).

Nīkau palms have long been important in Māori life. The leaves were used in thatching houses, wrapping food, and weaving.

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The nīkau is super slow-growing.  
Taking about 200 years to reach 10  
meters tall!

**Do you like to take your time,  
like a nīkau?**



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**What can we learn from  
nīkau?**

**How might we apply this in  
our classroom?**

