



Queen Palm

The queen palm, or *Syagrus romanzoffiana*, is native to South America. It is easily identified by its light, feathery fronds. This palm has been widely planted throughout tropical and subtropical

areas because it is fast growing and hardy. Unfortunately, it has naturalized and become invasive in Florida, as well as Queensland, Australia, and is classified as a weed in many tropical areas. It produces clusters of fruit which become orange and sticky when ripe. The fruit drops and can create a safety hazard on sidewalks. If the fruit is allowed to remain on the ground, it ferments and smells. Volunteer seedling palms generate from the piles of fallen fruit, and wherever the fruit is dropped by birds.

Young Queen palms can be found throughout Pine Run coming up in grassy areas, hedges and bushes. Residents have observed raccoons and other animals feasting, or should we say inebriating themselves, courtesy of the fermented fruit.