



# CHAMAEDOREA PALM FRONDS FOR EASTER

## PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



### Did You Know?

☘ More than a half of the farmers in Guatemala's Central Peten earn income by harvesting palm fronds, and;

☘ More than a quarter support themselves exclusively by collecting palm fronds;

☘ Approximately 300 million palm fronds are consumed in the United States annually.

☘ Palm Sunday purchases may be worth 4.5 million dollars/year;

☘ A congregation of 1,250 members will order approximately 700 fronds for Palm Sunday services.

☘ Responsible palm frond gathering actually protects valuable natural forests.



Over-harvesting can threaten the livelihood of these communities as well as the forests where the palm plants thrive. Similarly, decreased harvesting caused by reduced market demand could have a detrimental effect because forests that no longer provide a source of palm income are at risk of destructive conversion to large agricultural fields or pasture. Protecting these forests and jobs require a delicate balance between retaining a market for palm fronds and encouraging sustainable harvesting practices.

An effort to **certify** palm fronds from **communities** practicing **sustainable forestry** is currently underway. These communities have taken it upon themselves to utilize harvesting practices that minimize the impact on the natural ecosystem. Through certification, communities engaging in responsible management practices have the opportunity to benefit directly by receiving a higher price for their palm fronds. Consumers can be confident that their purchase directly benefits responsible harvesters.

**If you would like to learn more about the effort to certify palm fronds, or if you are interested in obtaining certified palms for the forthcoming Palm Sunday and Easter activities, please visit or contact us:**

Center for Integrated Natural Resources & Agricultural Management (CINRAM):

[www.cinram.umn.edu](http://www.cinram.umn.edu)

612-624-4299



### Promoting Social Justice

☘ Harvesting palms is an important source of income but gatherers receive a low price

☘ Gatherers will receive a higher price for their "fair trade" palms

### Promoting Environmental Stewardship.

☘ Palms protect valuable natural forests by providing income to forest communities.

☘ Palms will be "sustainably" harvested and managed protecting palm populations and the forests



Chamaedorea palms bundled from the forest ready for sorting



Sorting palms provides income for women in the Guatemalan Peten



Children playing while their mothers sort palms



"Uaxactun" – One of the communities where palms have been gathered for years