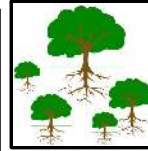


The Shatter Palm

Malviya Nagar, South Delhi
28° 31.853'N / 77° 12.578'E / 233m

Royal Palm
Roystonea regia
Arecaceae



Royal Palm *Roystonea regia*



In the South Delhi suburb of Malviya Nagar, a strangely hollow Royal Palm stands proudly in a small city park. After Hindi lessons at the nearby Hindiguru, I'd visit this park and wonder at this specimen. Walk southwest from the market street, and at the bus circle, turn left. At that corner, you'll pass between a park on the right and a temple on the left. Continue straight (ENE)- in the second park on the right, the Shatter Palm tree is in the centre.



Malviya Nagar bus circle, centre left

Malviya Nagar is a neighbourhood in South Delhi that will soon (2010) be the southern terminus of the Metro subway. Within walking distance are Mughal ruins 500 yrs old, and also a shining new shopping mall at Saket. Old and New India converge here.

Royal Palms were brought to India from the Caribbean, and are now common ornamental plants. A fast growing palm, they can tolerate drought, proximity to salt water, and hurricanes. They are identifiable by their spray of feather-like leaves, and the bright green stem just below the crown.



Two healthy and one topless Royal Palms, in the same park



The Palm Family: Arecaceae

Palms are a diverse and widespread group in the subtropics and tropics. They are more closely related to grasses and onions (monocots) than they are to most other woody trees. Well-known-and tasty- palms include the date and the coconut. In some tropical regions of the world, clearing of land to palm plantation for oil production is a major threat to the rainforest.



Royal Palms at B'hai Lotus Temple Gardens, SE Delhi