



VILLAGE OF PINECREST

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pinecrest bids farewell to an iconic palm that only grows in South Florida

Pinecrest, Fla. – The venerable Talipot Palm, planted in 1965 at Pinecrest Gardens (then the Parrot Jungle), started its once-in-its-lifetime flowering cycle this year. In the plant world, this is an extraordinary event. This is rare opportunity for visitors to see this event up close. Only eight Talipot palms have flowered in Florida in the last half century.

The flower stem can be over 20 feet tall, bear half a million flowers, and set possibly several thousand pounds of seeds. The palm relies upon its seeds to carry forth the next generation. Talipot Palms in the United States can only grow in South Florida, due to their tropical nature. The palm can reach 50 feet tall, with massive, broad fan leaves up to 20 feet across.

The Talipot Palm is located in the northeast corner of Pinecrest Gardens, just north of the area called Turtle Island. The palm is already using up its stored food reserves to produce the flower stem. The flowering and seed production cycle will take about a year to complete, ending with a slow rain of golf ball- sized fruits.

Knowing that the Pinecrest Gardens Talipot Palm was in the age range (40 to 70 years old) to flower, the Pinecrest Gardens horticulturist worked with the Community Garden Charitable Fund to purchase two young Talipot Palms in 2007. One of those new palms can be seen growing robustly on the northwest corner of Swan Lake. The new palms were planted to ensure that Talipot Palms would forever be in the legacy of this site for future generation to enjoy.

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