

Coconuts

Coconut is a common name for the fruit of a tree in the palm family. It is classified as *Cocos Nucifera*. People usually call the tree as coconut palm. Coconut palm trees grow well in tropical countries. They grow especially on sand soil.

The trees can grow up to 30 m high. They have a cylindrical trunk. At the top of the trunk, there is a crown of leaves. The leaves are long, about 3 to 4,5 m long.

The fruit grows in clusters. In one cluster, there are about 5 to 20 coconuts. The fruit is oval and about 30 cm long. It has a thick husk and hard shell. Inside the shell there is white oily flesh. Inside the shell, there is also sweet fluid.

Coconut is high in sugar. It also contains a lot of fat, protein, and vitamin. The young coconut water can be a very refreshing drink which contains a lot of minerals.

The coconut palm is very useful plants. People can use every single inch of the tree. They dry the coconut meat into copra. After that, they can get oil from it and use it for daily cooking or make it into soaps or candles. People also use the trunks to build houses. For the roof, they dry the leaves. People can also make rope and doormats from the coconut's husk.

Coconuts are usually propagated by seeds. But experts have been trying to clone coconuts or propagate them by tissue culture.

Answer the following questions based on the text!

1. What is the scientific name for coconut?
2. Where do the coconuts grow well?
3. How long are the coconut's leaves?
4. What is inside the coconut's shell?
5. How many coconuts are there in one cluster?
6. What does coconut contain?
7. What is copra?
8. What can people get from copra?
9. What do people use coconut's trunk for?
10. How are the coconuts propagated?