**DESCRIPTION:** This Madagascar Palm is a species originating from Southwest Madagascar, where it is one of the largest of the Madagascar Palm species. It is a spiny succulent shrubs (or tree) known for its swollen, twisted stems and beautiful flowers. It usually forms a single metallic grey trunk to 8 feet or more tall with a tuft of leaves at the top. It has a. Leaves are thin and grey-green, with a bright pink mid-rib. Fast growing, at up to a foot a year, it loses its leaves in winter if dried out. It flowers only when around 10 years old and 5-8 feet tall; flowers are white and in clusters.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Beautiful conversation pieces for large containers. For a very bright room or seasonally on a patio.

**CULTURE:**

- **Hardiness:** Very frost tender; must be brought indoors for winter.

- **Sun tolerance:** Adaptable to full sun if not rotated during summer; watch for sunburning of stem by late summer afternoon sun and protect if necessary. Part shade is acceptable but stems will be thinner.

- **Watering and feeding:** Water and feed generously in hot weather; little or not at all when dormant. Madagascar Palm grows so tall it may topple in the wind unless it is in a very massive pot. Grow in a sheltered spot or tie it to a stake hidden behind the plant. It is safest to dry the plant out and let the leaves drop in the winter to prevent crown rot.

- **Soil requirements:** Any well-drained potting mix.

- **Pruning:** Do not prune unless the stem becomes leggy. Topping *P. geayi* usually results in two to four branches; a good solution for plants that have grown too tall.