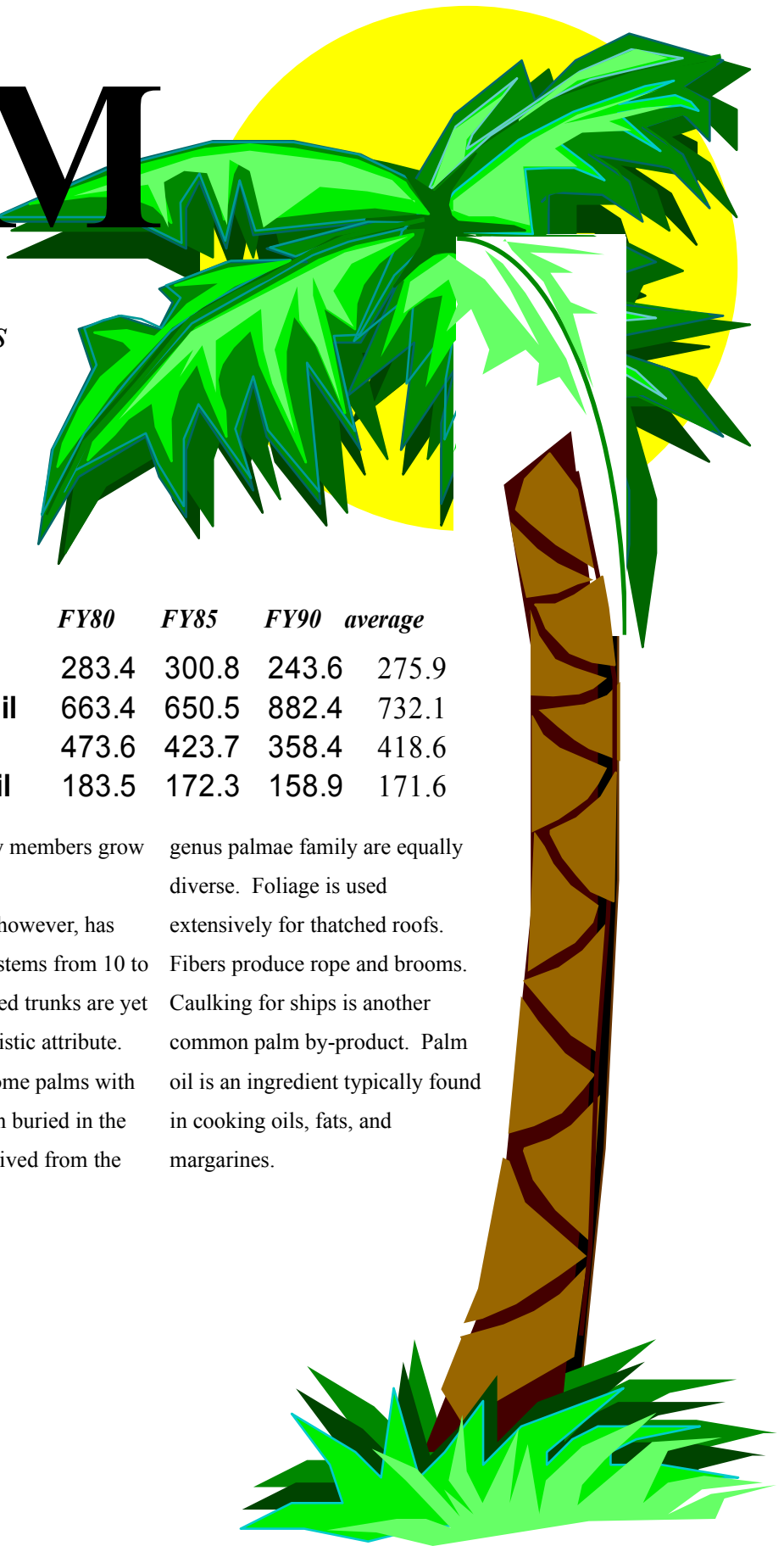


# PALM

*Except for coconut, the consumption of tropical oils is declining.*



**T**he palm tree, for most people, conjures up an image of a tall canopied, tropical tree. The palm family--genus *palmae*--is actually comprised of more than 2,600 different kinds of vegetation.

The palm family is also not strictly limited to balmy climes.

It grows in North Carolina, California, and as far south as Uruguay and central Argentina.

The various sizes and shapes of the palm are remarkably varied.

	<i>FY80</i>	<i>FY85</i>	<i>FY90</i>	<i>average</i>
<b>Palm Oil</b>	283.4	300.8	243.6	275.9
<b>Coconut Oil</b>	663.4	650.5	882.4	732.1
<b>Doum Oil</b>	473.6	423.7	358.4	418.6
<b>Palmyra Oil</b>	183.5	172.3	158.9	171.6

Most palm family members grow straight and tall.

The rattan palm, however, has slender, vinelike stems from 10 to 250 feet. Clustered trunks are yet another characteristic attribute.

There are even some palms with trunks that remain buried in the soil. Products derived from the

genus *palmae* family are equally diverse. Foliage is used

extensively for thatched roofs.

Fibers produce rope and brooms.

Caulking for ships is another common palm by-product. Palm

oil is an ingredient typically found in cooking oils, fats, and margarines.

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