PLANT FACT SHEET

Zamia roezlii Linden

GENUS *Zamia* **FAMILY** Zamiaceae

COMMON NAMES Chigua, Roezl zamia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

The large ripe seeds are used for food. The seeds are pounded to flour then washed several times to remove toxic components.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized cycad. The trunk can be erect or lie over. It can be 7 m long and 15 cm across. The young leaves are pale green. The mature leaves are 2-3 m long. There are 6-20 together in a graceful arching crown. The leaf stalk is 30-50 cm long. They are swollen at the base with short hairs and prickles. There are 20-54 leaflets on one leaf. These are 30-40 cm long by 3-4 cm wide. They are dark green above an paler underneath. The veins are prominent and raised. The leaflets are not crowded and are grooved. The male cones are 30-50 cm long by 4-6 cm wide. They are erect and brown. The female cone is 35-55 cm long by 10-14 cm wide. They are barrel shaped and dark brown. The seeds are 3.5-4 cm long by 1.7-2.5 cm wide. They are oval and bright red.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows naturally in Colombia in the equatorial forests and in swampy mangrove forests. They are near sea level. They suit tropical and warm sibtropical regions. They require shade, humidity and free air movement. They are very frost tender.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from fresh seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

They can produce cones throughout the year.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/0bf485f9-33e2-421b-9472-8328f358457f