PLANT FACT SHEET

Cycas siamensis Miq.

GENUS *Cycas* **FAMILY** Cycadaceae

COMMON NAMES Siamese cycad

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Stem - starch

The kernels of the seeds are poisonous but when soaked in running water for 3-4 days can become edible.
The tubers are edible after very long cooking.
Starch can be extracted from the stem.
The rip fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. The trunk is 1.5 m tall and 40-60 cm across. It is swollen at the base. The young leaves bear red brown hairs. There are many leaves. They form a widely spreading crown. They are 0.6-1.2 m long by 10-40 cm wide. They are dark green. The leaf stalks are 20-35 cm long. There are 70-180 leaflets on each leaf. The male cones are 20-30 cm long by 6-8 cm wide. They are narrow, oblong, brown and hairy. The female cones are loose and open.

HABITAT

They grow in tropical places. They grow in places with hot humid summers and mild dry winters. It grows under clear forest in coastal regions. It requires good drainage. It needs light shade. It needs regular watering. They cannot tolerate frosts. In Brisbane Botanical gardens. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

NOTES

There are about 20-40 Cycas species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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