PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Cycas cairnsiana F. Muell.

GENUS *Cycas* **FAMILY** Cycadaceae

COMMON NAMES Zamia Palm, Mount Surprise cycad

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

DESCRIPTION

A small palm like plant. It has a trunk 2-5 m tall. The trunk is stout and swollen at the base. The leaves are divided into leaflets along the stalk. The leaves are 1-2 m long. The stalk is hairy and slightly bluish. The leaflets are narrow and the edges are curled under. Leaflets are V shaped and 6-15 cm long by 0.4 cm wide. The male cone is oval and golden brown. The female spikes are sword shaped and rusty brown. The fruit are shiny brown and about 2 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in stony shallow soils in Northeast Queensland in Australia.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed which is best sown fresh. Seed should only be half buried. Seedlings are hard to establish.

NOTES

There are about 20-40 Cycas species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/9acea62c-d460-40ff-8eb9-9f610d4a20f7