Mejia's Dioon

Dioon mejiae

Height: 7 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 10

Other Names: Mejia's Cycad, Teosinte



Mejia's Dioon
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

A slow growing cycad, featuring an upright and spreading crown of long, fern like leaves; will develop a trunk over a long period; an attractive accent plant that prefers moist, well drained, fertile soil but will tolerate some drought

Ornamental Features

Mejia's Dioon is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. The creamy white fruits which fade to tan over time are held in abundance in spectacular cones from late fall to late winter. Its attractive large narrow pinnately compound leaves emerge light green in spring, turning bluish-green in color with hints of steel blue the rest of the year. The dark brown stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Mejia's Dioon is a spreading evergreen perennial with a shapely form and gracefully arching foliage. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should never be pruned except to remove any dieback, as it tends not to take pruning well. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Mejia's Dioon is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Mejia's Dioon flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Accent
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Mejia's Dioon foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Mejia's Dioon will grow to be about 7 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live to a ripe old age of 300 years or more; think of this as a heritage perennial for future generations! As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant should be grown in a location with partial shade. Keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided. This species is not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets..

Mejia's Dioon is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.