Pineapple Cycad

Lepidozamia peroffskyana

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Burrawang Palm, Scaly Zamia



Pineapple Cycad
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Pineapple Cycad fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

A slow growing, palm-like cycad with arching, pinnate leaves of glossy dark green; will develop a trunk over a long period; an attractive accent or container plant; prefers moist environments and must be well drained; hardy and tolerant of light frost

Ornamental Features

Pineapple Cycad's attractive large glossy narrow pinnately compound leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year on a plant with an arching habit of growth. The grayish green fruits which fade to tan over time are held in cones from late winter to late summer. The dark brown stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Pineapple Cycad 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.

Pineapple Cycad is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing



Pineapple Cycad bark
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Pineapple Cycad will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live to a ripe old age of 100 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 is a dioecious species, meaning that individual plants are either male or female. Only the females will produce fruit, and a male variety of the same species is required nearby as a pollinator.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. 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 sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. 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..

Pineapple Cycad 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.