

Cycad species

Propagation

Plant the seed sideways in a good friable and well draining media that is kept moist but not damp. Push the seed into the media so that it is half buried. Place in a warm lowlight area and water to maintain a moist media. Alternatively place the seed in damp sphagnum moss and seal in a plastic ziplock bag and hand in a warm lowlight position. Maintain the sphagnum in a moist condition.

Once germination occurs plant the germinated seed in a forestry tube with the shoot downwards...just gently press it into the media so that it is firmly in place. The shoot is the source of the roots. The seed is its source of nutrient until it develops a root network and it will eventually separate and drop off. Media should be well-draining and maintained in a moist state. A good coarse potting mix is a suitable growing media. Water as needed to maintain a dry to slightly moist media. Place the tube in a warm sheltered position where it gets sun until early afternoon.

Development of a leaf frond will occur after the plant has established firm roots.

Grow the plant on in a shady position – dappled sun is best – treat cycads as you would a tender fern. Repot as needed but say every 12 months. Initially in a forestry tube with at least 10cm depth.

The first frond should develop in the first few weeks after roots are present. It is initially very soft and prone to be damaged if rubbing against anything and this is true of all juvenile fronds so give them some airspace to develop.

Further fronds develop and possibly the beginning of branching can be expected within about 15 to 20 weeks of the initial frond although this can vary somewhat depending on conditions.

Repot into a 140mm pot at about a year but depending upon the rapidity of growth. Take care not to damage the root system on repotting, gently empty the tube contents onto a sheet of paper along with the cycad and then repot carefully in that media into the new container and use the same or slightly coarser media. Repeat this repotting as required by growth.

Bare-rooted Cycads

Cycads take bare rooting very well. Upon receiving your cycad pot up in a medium to coarse potting mix. With the larger specimens like the *Bowenia spectabilis* and *Lepidozamia* we recommend at least a 175mm pot to allow growth without the need for repotting for about 12 months. With the smaller specimens such as the Burrawang and

the Pineapple Cycad, pot up in a similar fashion in a 100 or 120mm pot. Fertilise regularly and give the newly potted plant an application of “weak tea” strength Seasol or similar.



Pinnae are the individual leaflets of a compound leaf, such as a cycad pinna.

