

Cycad, Fern Palm, Sago Palm

GENERAL

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|-------------|---|
| Origin | : Mediterranean, sub-tropical, tropical |
| Vigour | : very slow-growing |
| Humidity | : semi-humid, very humid, extremely humid |
| Propagation | : sowing and pricking out |
| Maintenance | : low |

CONDITIONS

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Urban climate | : resistant |
| Dessication | : vulnerable |
| Stagnant water | : vulnerable |
| Irrigation | : medium |
| Salinity/ppm | : moderate (1200 ppm) |
| Hardiness | : -9°C |

SHAPE

| | |
|---------|---------------|
| Type | : shrub, tree |
| Height | : 2 m-3 m |
| Spread | : 1.5 m-3.5 m |
| Foliage | : evergreen |

FLOWER

| | |
|--------|-----------------|
| Colour | : deep yellow |
| Size | : 30 cm |
| Period | : June - August |

FRUIT

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Type of fruit | : drupe (leathery/fibrous) |
| Fruit size | : 4 cm |
| Toxicity | : edible when processed, poisonous, fruit, shoot |

Fern or Sago Palm is the common name for this plant, which many believe to be a palm tree, because of its fronds. *C. revoluta* belongs to a special plant family called cycads, which produce cones instead of flowers. It is native to southern Japan. There are some excellent specimens at Kasr Tuwaiq in the Diplomatic Quarter. It eventually grows to the proportions of a small tree, reaching a height of 2 to 3 metres. The *Cycas* reaches maturity at the age of 100, but it is very slow-growing and a specimen at this age will have a trunk of 7 metres. The evergreen, leathery, long leaves are in a very symmetrical order at top of the stem. The plant is dioecious: the male plant develops an impressive cone for pollen production, and the female plants bear groups of nut-like seeds that can be used for propagation, which can also be carried out by removing the basal offsets. *Cycas* prefers sandy to clayey soil with some humus content. It does not like salinity and requires adequate irrigation and a minimum of air humidity. The Sago will grow well in the shade of trees and is best planted to receive morning sun. Pruning is not required. *C. revoluta* is a very attractive plant, because of its dark-green leaves and regular and symmetrical growth. It survives the intense, dry heat of Arriyadh, and sometimes direct sun, remarkably well, giving a lush, tropical impression. Attractive planting schemes can be created with *Cycas* as accent or specimen plants or in groups in parks, gardens or pedestrian precincts.

