

Botanical Name: Encephalartos altensteinii

Common Name: Eastern Cape cycad

Type of Plant: cycad: perennial Family Cycadaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape A large, upright, normally single-trunk cycad with an erect or sometimes reclining trunk; one of the most common cycads in cultivation

Height to 15 ft. Spread to 8 ft. Growth Rate Moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun to partial shade

Soil tolerates most any well-drained soil

Hardiness some frost; Zones 18 - 24

Morphology:

Leaves pinnately compound fronds to 10 ft. long and 15" across; leaflets to 10" long, mostly spineless

Flowers large cones (males 10" x 3" females 8" x 4") reddish brown at the top of the crown of mature specimens

Fruit 2" red drupes, shiny

Propagation: seed, division of pups from trunk

Usage: imposing tropical specimen used in large scale plantings, in lawns or in shaded beds; very adaptable to sun or shade, rocky or rich soils and tolerant of some frost; probably too large for all but the largest containers

Landscape Care:

Watering takes moderate watering; do not overwater in heavy soils

Fertilizing slow-release fertilizer every few years

Pruning remove unsightly fronds as they age; remove cones after bloom

Pests/Diseases relatively pest free; may get mealybug and scale

Other can be attacked by snails and slugs

Origin: Eastern Cape region of South Africa